

Saturday 18 June 2016

Amateur Photographer

Passionate about photography since 1884



Sony RX10 III
Is this £1,250 monster the world's
best all-in-one bridge camera?

Shoot the elements

Charlie Waite on how the
weather can add drama
to your landscapes

Abstract impact

Paul Sanders
explains how to see
beyond the obvious

Sigma 50-100mm f/1.8 DC HSM | A

Tested: the first portrait zoom
with a constant f/1.8 aperture

Super Flemish

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anything you've
seen before



LOCATION GUIDE Jeremy Walker's tips for shooting an iconic Somerset landmark

SONY



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4K

Discover more at www.sony.co.uk

*Among interchangeable-lens digital cameras equipped with a 35mm full-frame image sensor. Information correct as of June 10, 2015.

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Surely no category of camera has been so transformed in recent years than the bridge camera, as exemplified by the subject of this week's big test, the Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX10 III. I used to hate them – masquerading as DSLRs, they conned the unwary buyer into thinking they were getting superior image quality when they had the same small, noisy sensors as cheap point and shoots. Their tiny, laggy, electronic

viewfinders made them awful to use, and their only positive attribute – a big zoom – was undermined by small maximum apertures that made camera shake inevitable. The RX10 III gives you a one-inch sensor, a fast lens, stunning EVF and 4K video. It's as far from the ghastly bridge cameras of old as a Ferrari is to a dustcart. Of course it's expensive, but just imagine how much a Zeiss 24-600mm f/2.4-4 lens would cost for a DSLR!

Nigel Atherton, Editor

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ONLINE PICTURE OF THE WEEK



IMAGES MAY BE USED FOR PROMOTION PURPOSES ONLINE AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA © PAUL ROSE

Bass Rock from Canty Bay by Paul Rose

Nikon D810, 24-70mm, 19secs at f/11, ISO 64

This atmospheric image comes from AP reader Paul Rose and was uploaded to our Flickr page. The shot looks almost as if it could be a still from a horror film. The building, most probably a lighthouse, that sits upon the rock is a strangely eerie sight that allows the viewers to build all sorts of stories for themselves.

'I was fortunate to spend the weekend with our church youth group a while back in the idyllic

location of Canty Bay in East Lothian,' says Paul. 'We had taken the youngsters to the adjacent bay to collect shells when this rain shower began to head our way! Bass Rock is uninhabited by humans now, but is home to the world's largest colony of northern gannets.'

To achieve the final look of the image, the photograph was then processed in Lightroom, Photoshop and Nik Silver Efex Pro.



Win! Each week we choose our favourite picture on Facebook, Flickr, Twitter, Instagram or the reader gallery using #appicoftheweek. PermaJet proudly supports the online picture of the week winner, who will receive a top-quality print of their image on the finest PermaJet paper. It is important to bring images to life outside the digital sphere, so we encourage everyone to get printing today! Visit www.permajet.com to learn more.

Send us your pictures

If you'd like to see your work published in *Amateur Photographer*, here's how to send us your images:

Email Email a selection of low-res images (up to 5MB of attachments in total) to appicturedesk@timeinc.com.

CD/DVD Send us a disc of high-resolution JPEG, TIFF or PSD images (at least 2480 pixels along its longest length), with a contact sheet, to the address on page 18.

Via our online communities Post your pictures into our Flickr group, Facebook page, Twitter feed, or the gallery on our website. See details above.

Transparencies/prints Well-packaged prints or slides (without glass mounts) should be sent by Special Delivery, with a return SAE, to the address on page 18.

NEWS ROUND-UP

The week in brief, edited by Chris Cheesman

Fresh editing software

Xara has updated its Xara Photo & Graphic Designer 365 photo-editing software, adding features such as new photo-filter presets and two types of photo grids. Also new are cross-process photo effects that allow users to create 'dramatic contrast and saturation effects'. The software costs £49.99, and upgrades are £24.99, as part of an introductory offer. Visit www.xara.com/us.



© MARCUS MALINONE

2017 Sony contest

The 10th Sony World Photography Awards is now open for entries, offering \$25,000 for the grand prizewinner and \$5,000 for the Open category winner. Last year the contest had 230,000 entries. For details, see www.worldphoto.org.

Unseen celeb footage

Fashion photographer Nick Knight (pictured) revealed that he has previously unseen celebrity footage featuring unguarded moments of his subjects. Knight has stashed the footage in a 'safe' art storage lock-up facility. 'I have 30 years of fantastic fly-on-the wall stuff, because, of course, cameras have microphones on them, so people would stand next to [them] and gossip, talk and say all those things they want to do,' Knight said.



© C. CHEESMAN



Clampod support

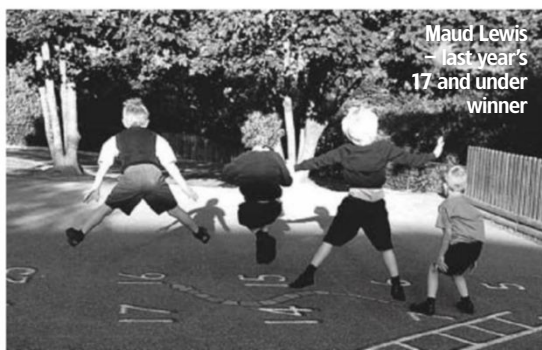
The new R1 Mini Ranger Clampod, part of the Takeway Clampod mini-tripod and clamping system, is a support aid for cameras, action cameras, mobile phones and GPS devices. 'It will actually clamp onto anything 5-32mm thick,' claims UK distributor Kenro. It is currently priced at £29.94. Visit www.kenro.co.uk.

© JEAN-PIERRE KSIKZE/GETTY IMAGES



Red Cross challenge

Canon has teamed up with the British Red Cross to launch the third photography competition for people up to the age of 25 years. The competition theme is 'Making a difference matters' and, for the first time, includes a video category. Winners will be announced in November. Visit redcross.org.uk/hca.



Maud Lewis – last year's 17 and under winner

© SHUTTERSTOCK

WEEKEND PROJECT

Fun with fisheyes

Fisheye lenses are 'fun' specialist lenses that can be genuinely creative tools. Gerred Mankowitz's work with the Rolling Stones springs to mind, for example, but even wedding photographers often carry a fisheye in order to capture cool portraits and group shots with a difference. But AF-enabled fisheyes from the big makers tend to cost an arm and a leg. Fortunately, there's growing interest in the cheaper manual-focus (MF) lenses from Samyang and other third-party lens makers. You can pick up the Samyang 8mm fisheye for mirrorless systems for under £200, and the optics and build quality are impressive. Even cheaper is the Olympus fisheye body cap. Here are some tips to get more from budget MF fisheye lenses this weekend.

1 Focusing manually doesn't need to be scary. Try a general aperture of f/8 on the Samyang lens and focus to infinity. Nearly everything in the frame should be in focus, but in poorer light you'll need a wider aperture or higher ISO.

2 When using wider apertures, turn on focus peaking if supported by your camera, or one of the other manual-focusing aids. Making sure the shutter speed is fast enough will also help to ensure crisper images.

BIG picture

Protests in France over the government's labour reform plans

◀ In this dramatic and compositionally dynamic image taken by Getty photographer Jean-Philippe Ksiazek, we see a man holding a bouquet of flowers and a flare as he faces riot police during a demonstration in Lyon, France, against the government's planned labour reform. The French government's labour-market proposals have sparked a series of protests and strikes over the past three months. The image itself is a wonderful example of how, even in the most intense atmosphere, a photographer's instincts can result in capturing captivating imagery. The contradiction of the flowers in one hand and the flare in the other is a symbolism-heavy element that adds depth to the image and opens the scene up to multiple interpretations.

Words & numbers

Anything more than 500 yards from the car just isn't photogenic

Edward Weston
20th century American photographer (1886-1958)

220 thousand

Average number of photos stored on a person's computers, smartphones and storage devices

SOURCE: PPS/WEBBAM SURVEY



3 Fisheye lenses are extremely wideangle, so be careful not to include your feet in the foreground or anything else that shouldn't be there. Fisheye images also look better if the curve goes towards the top of the frame.

4 For composition, get in close, soak up details and look for spherical or elliptical objects or shapes. Straight-up, vertical subjects can look a bit strange, unless you get down low or want surreal distortion.

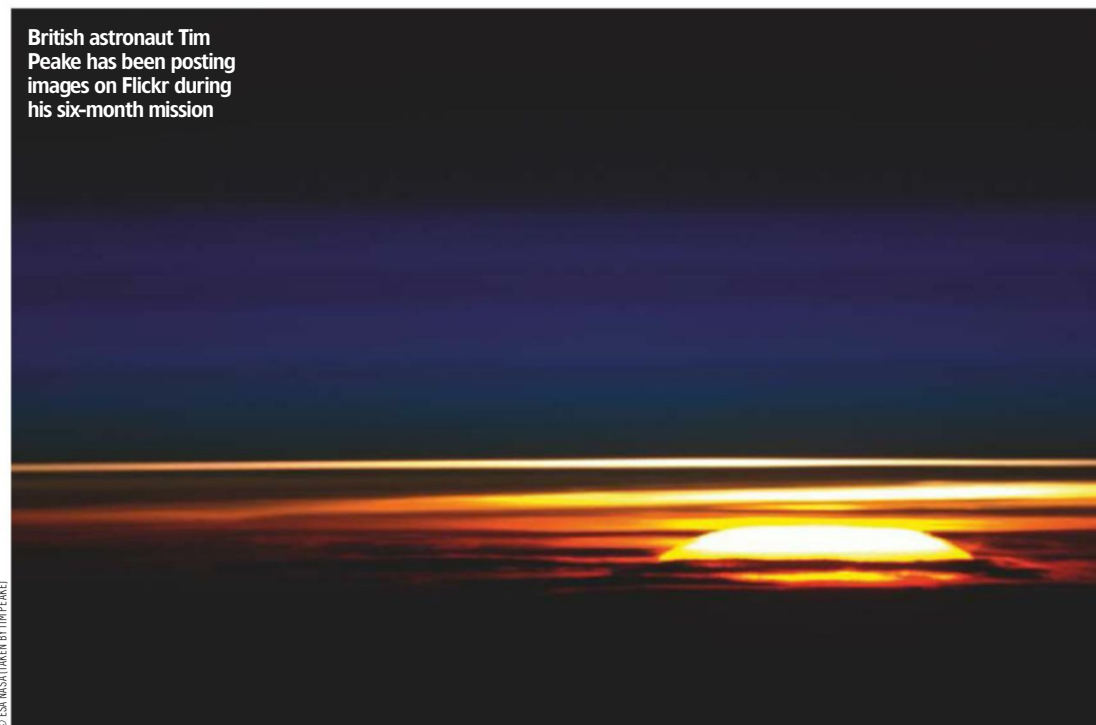
To make the most of a fisheye lens, get in nice and close to your subject



© GEOFF HARRIS

British astronaut Tim Peake has been posting images on Flickr during his six-month mission

© ESA NASA (TAKEN BY TIM PEAKE)



Tim Peake reveals his best images from space

BRITISH astronaut Tim Peake has chosen his best images from space, but says it would have been 'quite unfair' to enter them into the Insight Astronomy Photographer of the Year 2016 competition.

Peake, who returns to Earth from the International Space Station later this month, has been capturing photos on a daily basis from space, using a Nikon D4 DSLR.

The Royal Observatory and UK Space Agency were curious to find out which of Tim's snaps he thought might have had a chance of taking home the grand prize at the Astronomy Photographer of the Year competition.

Dr Marek Kukula, the Royal Observatory's public astronomer and a competition judge, said: 'Tim's images give us a unique view of the cosmos, thanks to his perch on the [International Space Station], which essentially acts as a very tall camera tripod.'

When AP asked if Peake had planned to enter this year's contest – which boasts a £10,000 top prize – a spokeswoman for the organisers told AP: 'There's actually nothing in the rules to say he couldn't enter... so he could have if he'd wanted to.'

'When he was asked, though, he thought it would be quite unfair as he is in space!'

Peake's chosen images include the colourful layers of a sunrise (above), plucked from among the 16 sunrises a day that Tim and his fellow astronauts say they get to witness.

He also selected a photo of the Milky Way (below), which organisers describe as 'akin to a sweeping scene from a sci-fi movie'.

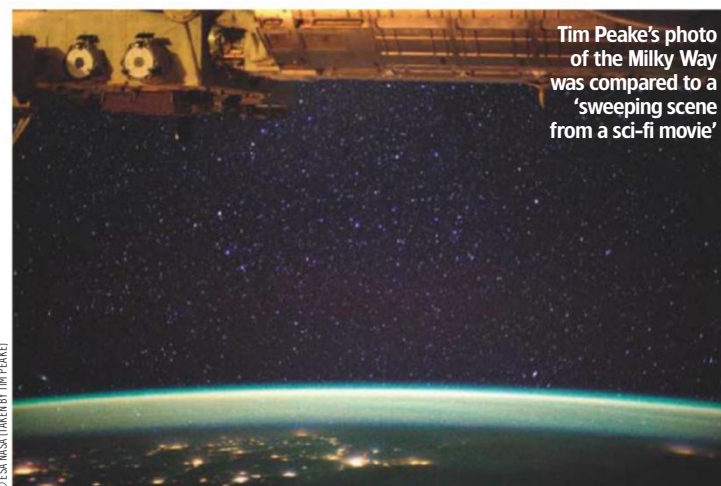
If Peake had decided to enter the competition this year, he would have faced tough competition, with over

4,500 'awe-inspiring' entries from 80 countries – a 60% rise in entries.

Kukula continued: 'Tim has captured inspiring shots of our planet and the wider universe, which I'm sure will spur on a whole new generation of astronauts and space-industry workers.'

The winning entries are due to be showcased in a free exhibition at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London, from 17 September.

The astronaut has been posting images on his Flickr page throughout his six-month mission.



Tim Peake's photo of the Milky Way was compared to a 'sweeping scene from a sci-fi movie'

© ESA NASA (TAKEN BY TIM PEAKE)



May's new 3D stereo viewer

QUEEN guitarist Brian May has announced the launch of a stereo image viewer, designed for a smartphone audience. May has adapted the OWL Stereo Viewer, used by stereoscopic enthusiasts since 2009 to view Victorian stereo cards, to accept any type of smartphone.

The kit will rival the Google Cardboard and Facebook's recently announced Oculus Rift headset. May said: 'Virtual reality has taken the consumer-electronics world by storm over recent months and masses of content is now rapidly becoming available...

'However, until now, users have had the choice of an expensive VR viewer that puts it out of reach of many people or a very low-cost alternative that just doesn't do the format justice.' The OWL VR Kit costs £25. Visit www.londonstereo.com.



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Pentax says DSLR output will be affected

Pentax caught in earthquake aftermath

PENTAX has become the latest camera brand to admit that the earthquakes that rocked Japan in April will hit camera production (News, AP 14 May).

Brand owner Ricoh Imaging said: 'We anticipate some impact on the future production of our lens-interchangeable digital SLR cameras, interchangeable lenses and digital compact cameras, because some of our suppliers in this

region have been affected by the earthquakes and the continuing aftershocks.'

Meanwhile, Panasonic says the quake, which struck in the second week of April, 'damaged [the] factories of some of our parts suppliers'. It added: 'As a result of this, the supply of components for some of our digital-imaging products has been affected and we do envisage some disruption to inbound stock. We

anticipate that this will delay shipments from the beginning of June until the end of November on almost all models in our camcorder range and some of our still fixed-lens cameras.

'We can, however, confirm that our Lumix G series remains unaffected by this issue.'

Panasonic says its plans for Photokina 'remain unchanged'. For further information, check out the AP website.

Moving portrait wins award

A BUDDING photojournalist has won an expenses-paid overseas assignment with his moving portrait of an elderly nursing-home resident and charity worker in Belarus (right).

Andy Coupe from Chesterfield, Derbyshire, triumphed in the Little Hearts Photography Competition, organised by humanitarian charity Muntada Aid. Entrants were challenged to submit images on the subject 'An Act of Kindness'.

Andy, 38, explained that the woman in his photo was unable to move from her bed without assistance. 'None of the staff know her name, and like most of the residents, she never receives visitors or has contact with the outside world,' he added.

He captured the image using a



The contest sought 'act of kindness' entries Voigtlander Bessa III, on Ilford XP2 film.

Coupe will accompany photographer Owen Humphreys on an assignment for the Little Hearts charity project.

For the latest news visit www.amateurphotographer.co.uk

Get up & go

The most interesting things to see, to do and to shoot this week. By Geoff Harris

CUMBRIA



© DON GUTSINK

Wildlife Photographer of the Year

If you missed the London exhibition of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year, you can see the stunning award-winning images in Cumbria. The show features over 100 images that can confidently claim to be the best wildlife photography in the world.

Until 3 July, www.rheged.com/wildlife-photographer-year-exhibition

LONDON



© ALBERTO VENZAGO

Die Jungfrau: She Walks In Beauty

This free exhibition at Kings Place features Alberto Venzago's images of the iconic Jungfrau mountain in Switzerland, shot at different times of the year. Venzago, a versatile photographer and cameraman, has worked with a number of diverse clients.

17-18 June, bit.ly/jungfraulondon



BELFAST

© ANDREW RANKIN

Close to You

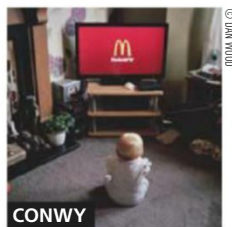
Photo Factory co-founder Andrew Rankin examines his engagement with the media, considering it a mechanism and catalyst for creating fantasies and shaping expectations of love and happiness.

Until 23 July, www.belfastexposed.org/exhibition/Close_To_You

Dan Wood

Photographer Dan Wood talks about his 'Suicide Machine' project set in the Welsh town of Bridgend. Linking via Skype there will be a Q&A session as well with a chance to discuss Dan's work and preference for shooting film.

23 June, orielcolwyn.org/dan-wood-talk



CONWY

© DAN WOOD

SCOTTISH BORDERS



© WHITE FOX GALLERY

One-Day Workshop

Landscape, portrait and property photographer Stephen Whitehorne introduces the basics of camera use and how to express personal vision effectively.

25 June, whitefoxgallery.co.uk/photography-workshops



Viewpoint Jon Bentley

With interesting subjects being in short supply for the time-poor photographer, couldn't a photographic theme park, where suitable subjects are laid on, be the answer?

I was chatting to a chap recently who runs a film-processing and printing outfit. 'I get to see an awful lot of pictures of trains,' he complained. He was obviously implying that too many photographers looking for subjects on which to try out their cameras take the easy option and readily trot along to the nearest heritage railway to expose their rolls of film.

I countered by saying he was being a little harsh. One of the problems for busy people trying to squeeze in a little photography is a shortage of subjects available at the precise moment they have some spare time. It's hardly surprising that the steam trains of yesteryear attract so much attention, whether on film or digital.

But do subjects need to be in such short supply? To make life easier for busy photographers, why not have photographic theme parks where suitable subjects are laid on and you can develop your technique in a range of photographic styles, without restricting yourself to locomotives? Such parks would be built around exercising your eyes and your camera equipment. Think of them as gymnasia for your photographic skills.

Unlike photographic courses that you have to plan in advance and which can feel like work, my photography parks would be pay as you go and focused on

enjoyment. They'd be more Blackpool Pleasure Beach than Open University. You'd turn up, pay your fee and make your choice between ready-made fashion shoots, fully equipped studios complete with models and character actors waiting to have their portraits taken, live bands and a park full of photogenic wildlife.

The site would include a kitchen where the finest-looking food would be created especially for photography. Drones would be available so you could practise your aerial photography skills. There'd be action opportunities such as motor racing or other sporting events, and even a continuous wedding. Actors would populate a permanent and varied urban set for trouble-free street photography.

Landscape photography might be more of a challenge. One could hardly recreate Snowdonia or the Lake District without indulging in a little virtual reality. But the park could have satellite branches out in the countryside for those wanting to develop this side of their work.

I'd be the first to admit that my proposed parks could be rather expensive, and it might be difficult to attract the necessary investment. But steam railways aren't cheap to run, either.

Jon Bentley is a TV producer and presenter best known for *Top Gear* and Channel 5's *The Gadget Show*



Could photo theme parks take the place of trains?

Do you have something you'd like to get off your chest? Send us your thoughts in around 500 words to the address on page 18 and win a year's digital subscription to AP, worth £79.99

New Books

The latest and best books from the world of photography. By Oliver Atwell



© CHARLES FRÉGER

Yokainoshima: Island of Monsters

By Charles Fréger, Thames & Hudson Ltd, £24.95, hardback, 256 pages, 978-0-50054-459-4

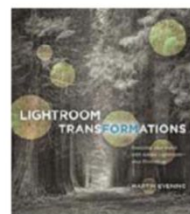


YOKAINOSHIMA is an island that exists in the imagination of photographer Charles Fréger. The idea was inspired by the Japanese word *yokai* – a class of supernatural monsters, spirits and demons found throughout Japanese folklore. Japan

is a land brimming with myth and legend. In Japanese culture, festivals and rituals commemorate the changing of the seasons and mark the passage of the year. There are various other ceremonies, but all of them, through the community's adoption of costumes, welcome the spirit visitors, or *yokai*, whether they come from the sea, mountains or sky. The images in Fréger's book are utterly fascinating, as is the historical context laid out in the essays that bookend them. *Yokainoshima* is a beautiful achievement, and one you can lose yourself in for hours. ★★★★★

Lightroom Transformations

By Martin Evening, New Riders, £27.99, paperback, 264 pages, 978-0-13439-828-0



WHEN we load up a photograph we have taken into the post-production software of our choice, we can find ourselves asking: 'Is this the right thing to do?' Just a few tweaks of the sliders can instill a feeling of near anxiety as we question whether these changes are truly making a difference or if we are simply, as this book puts it, creating artifice for artifice's sake. This is Martin Evening's jumping-off point to show how Lightroom, Camera Raw and Photoshop can be used to bring out the hidden qualities of an image by using just the right number of tweaks. He shows a variety of before and after shots and, as with his other books, this is recommended for anyone wishing to get to grips with their software. ★★★★★

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Shoot less, **see more**

When we talk about abstract photography, what do we really mean? Paul Sanders takes a look

Abstract – or non-objective, conceptual photography – concentrates on line, form, colour, texture and shape. Often the viewer will be left wondering what the original object was. Abstract photography is not about the literal view; it will introduce the viewer to the emotional link that the photographer had with an object or subject.

When you look at or engage with abstract photography, you are meant to enjoy the way the image makes you feel. Indeed, it is more about emotionally connecting with the image than recognising the original subject. Shooting abstract images should tap into your imagination and get you seeing things in a new light. ➤



Paul Sanders

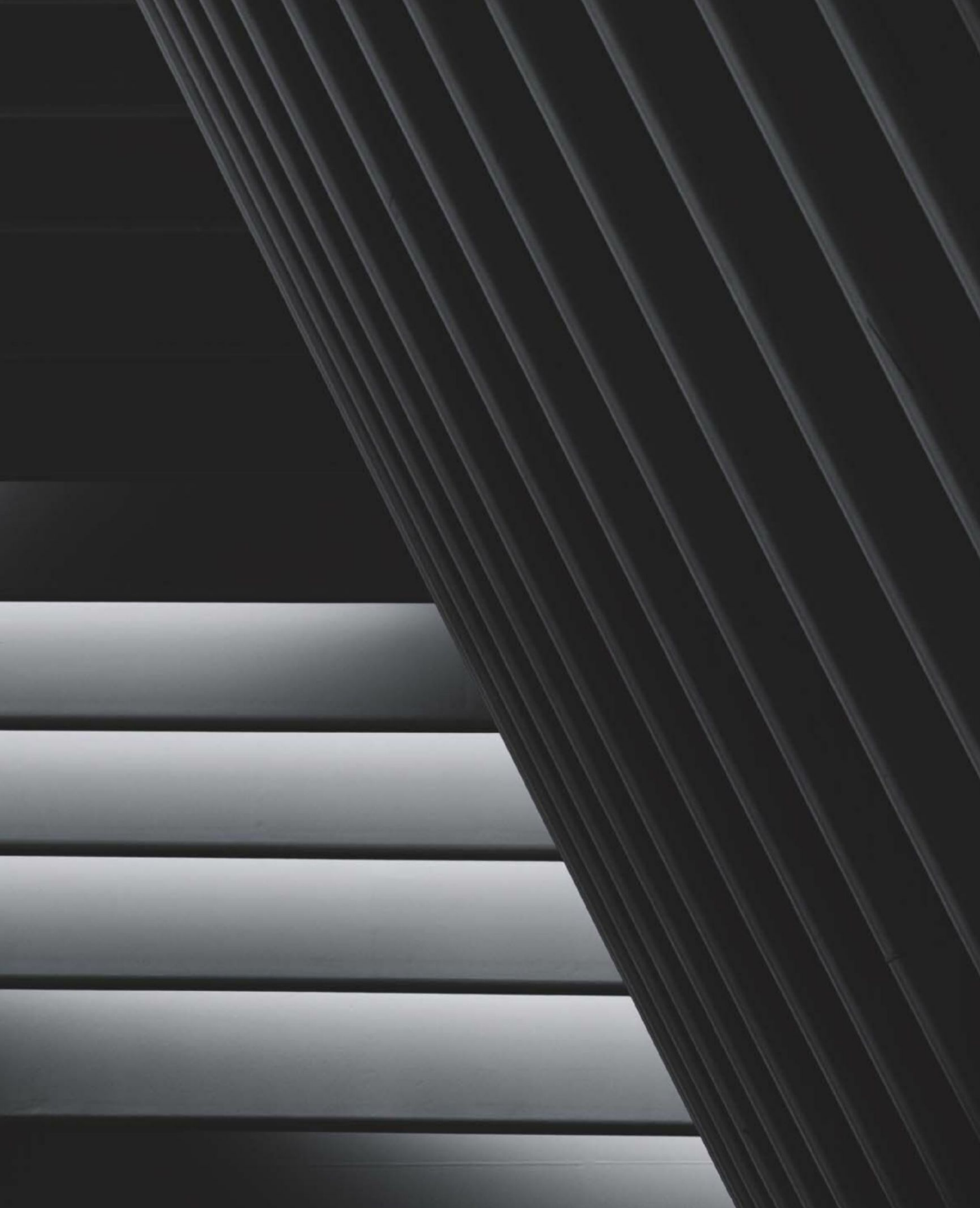
Professional photographer Paul joined *The Times* in 2002, becoming its picture editor in 2004. In this prestigious role, he oversaw the entire visual look and feel of the newspaper. He left in 2011 to pursue his passion for fine-art landscape photography. Visit www.paulsanders.biz.



KIT LIST

◀ Telephoto lens

I often like to shoot wide open on a longish lens. The 56mm f/1.2 lens on my Fujifilm is perfect as it allows me to isolate the subject and create nice bokeh.



◀ Graduated filters

Graduated filters are not just for landscapes. I often use a set of Lee graduated filters just to hold certain areas of detail. Also, I can reverse them to allow areas to bleed to white if the effect is pleasing to the eye.



◀ Kenko extension tubes

These tubes get you closer to the subject, and are a real aid when shooting details.

► Unfettered by rules

Children are particularly good at creating abstract images. They are unfettered by the rules that we apply to our own photography. Often as adults we neglect to truly look into a subject, only recognising the 'bigger picture'.

On the flip side, shooting abstract images is not about blindly taking lots of close-up shots hoping that one turns out OK. It is really about looking into the subject, searching for something different that catches your eye that perhaps reveals the essence of something else within the object. 'Shoot less, see more' is the golden rule here.

Abstract photography takes on different forms for each individual, so no two photographers will see an object in the same way if they are truly faithful to their own creative spirit. Therefore, there's no point in Googling 'abstract photography in my home town', for instance, to see what others have done. It is important to be driven by your own way of 'seeing'.

Themes

Shooting in an abstract manner involves adopting one or a combination of these themes: patterns, textures, angles, shapes, lines, tone variation, colour variation, perspective, distance from subject, depth of field, symmetry, geometry, reflections, shadows, contrast, movement (see panel on next page), length of exposure, blur (subject and bokeh), multiple exposure (both in-camera and post-processing) and cropping (ideally in-camera).

I use this photography genre to open my eyes, especially if I have reached a plateau with my usual style of image making.

Getting started

Starting with the 'less is more' theory, let's look at equipment. I only ever



ALL PICTURES © PAUL SANDERS

WHAT TO LOOK FOR



Light

As with most forms of photography, light is your friend. However, you don't need the 'golden hour'; just watch how the light works over your subject, how it emphasises areas, adds texture and gives the form life. Work with the light available, as well as against it.



Lines and curves

Lines and curves lead your viewer around the image. You have that power in your hands, but pay attention to composition when shooting lines and curves. Be aware of the distances between the lines, pay attention to the details, and give lines and curves a purpose.



Colour

Look for variations in colour: tonal colour changes are beautiful, whereas contrasting colours can be breathtaking. Also, think how the colours might translate in black & white. Try to envisage the final image as you shoot. Saturated colours will grab a viewer's attention.



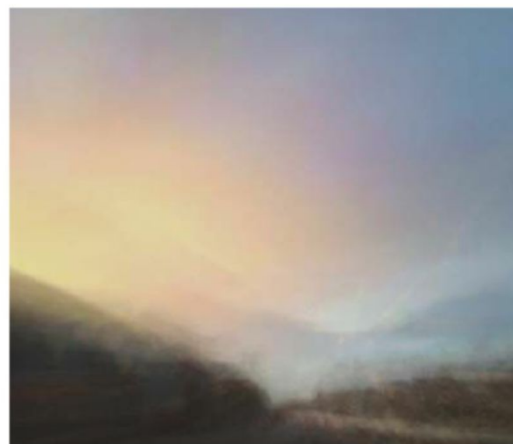
Don't be afraid to experiment with reflections to distort parts of the image

Using neutral density filters

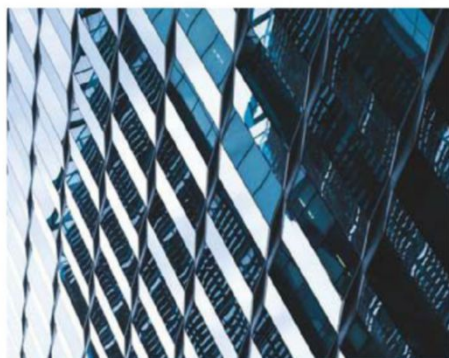
● Neutral density (ND) filters are also an asset when shooting abstract work. Be it at the coast or in the city, being able to slow your shutter speed down to allow the elements to move and emphasise one or more solid objects is a wonderful ability.

● ND filters will give your work that minimal style, with an infinite sense of space and calm. A tripod is usually essential for the long-exposure work, although I have seen some fun long exposures done by hand by holding a camera and running through a street!

● You won't always have your equipment handy, so don't be afraid to use your smartphone to try ideas. I always carry a set of headphones and a small smartphone tripod in my pocket, just in case. The headphones trigger the camera in most devices.



ND filters can be an asset when shooting abstracts



Patterns and textures

Patterns and textures can be great fun and they can be found everywhere, from the jeans you are wearing to a skyscraper with hundreds of windows. You can see them everywhere. Just use the repetition of pattern to lead your eye in a certain direction.



Shadows

Shadows create abstract shapes and patterns in themselves. Watch for how a pattern and a shadow work together – the area may only be small, but remember small is beautiful, and in the final image no one will have any idea about how big the subject is.



Movement

One of the most effective ways of creating abstract images is the use of intentional camera movement (ICM). Look for subjects with strong lines or colours and follow their direction by panning your camera. You may need a tripod.

Five steps to successful ICM images

Learn how to shoot intentional camera movement (ICM) images

1 Subject

Find a subject with strong horizontal, vertical or diagonal lines.

2 Choose your lens

In my opinion, a longer lens works best for this style, as you don't get the distortion at the edges of the frame that you may see with some wideangles. Don't let that stop you from experimenting, though!

3 Movement

With your camera mounted on a tripod, practise the amount and speed of movement you need to create for the effect you want. Your tripod will help minimise camera shake and moving off line if you are looking to create parallel lines.

4 Shutter speed

Find a shutter speed that maximises the abstract nature of the images you are creating.

5 Experiment

Experiment either by putting a little flash into the image to add definition, or by using multiple exposures. For inspiration, look at the works of others, such as Doug Chinnery or Valda Bailey.

Lines and curves can lead the viewer round the image, so use this to your advantage



ICM can produce some beautiful results



➤ take one body – my Fujifilm X-Pro2 – and two lenses with me (a 56mm and 14mm), which are both primes.

I choose primes over zooms usually because zoom lenses make me a little lazy. Rather than exploring a potential subject by looking around and moving, I will just zoom in or out and not always walk around my subject – this happens a lot if I am feeling uninspired with my normal work.

Don't be restricted

Leave your tripod at home – seriously. A tripod can restrict you and get in the way of your shooting, especially in city centres. However, you can use a tripod for some forms of abstract work, such as long exposure or intentional camera movement. I usually decide on what I am thinking of shooting before I leave home.

Speaking of leaving the tripod at home, you can actually start at home – one of the joys of shooting like this is that you can start in your own house or garden.

Work your subject hard, try shooting at different angles and with or against the light, watch how the textures and shadows change as you move, and

observe how the light coming from behind gives a completely different feel to frontal light. Don't be afraid to push your highlights right up or use your exposure to darken the shadows down until they almost fill in. Extreme high or low-key rendering can really make the mundane stand out.

Finally, as photographers we are governed by rules about focus, exposure, composition and depth of field. At times, these conspire against us 'seeing' what's happening. Where possible, try to forget the rules – see them as guidelines, and don't get freaked out when you like something that you've shot that does not have real sharpness or that fails to follow the rule of thirds. Be free to create!

AP

Post-processing

Be bold! Notice how a colour subject renders when you apply a blue, red or yellow filter to it in Adobe Photoshop Lightroom. Don't be afraid to increase clarity and saturation – use radial brushes to add effects on certain areas. Experiment with the filters offered by some of the processing software.



Paul's top tips

1 Don't rush

Invest a little time exploring a subject. Try to work through your subject – walk around it and look at how the angles and lines change as you move.

2 Start small

Often the best subjects can be found in a very small area – perhaps a small circular walk, in your garden or even on a table in a coffee shop.

3 Less is more

Aim to see more and shoot less. It's a difficult thing to do in the digital age, but discipline yourself to only shoot when you feel the image has come together without the camera.

4 Repetition

Look for repeating patterns. These will help direct the viewer around your images.

5 Experiment

Don't be afraid to try new things: multiple exposure, defocused images, rotating your camera – get out of your comfort zone.

6 Be brave and use your imagination

Not everyone will like what you do, so don't be put off by people not endorsing your initial efforts. Likewise, not every shot will be a winner. But if you use every ounce of creativity you possess and you are truly open to seeing the potential in normal objects, your visual excitement will know no bounds.



Colour can play a key role in abstract images, grabbing the viewer's attention

Watch how textures and shadows move around and what shapes are created



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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Pinholes

The article on back-to-basics photography (AP 14 May) is interesting, but gives one side of the tale. The essence of going back to basics is speed and cost: not something that can be said of laser-cut pinholes. So, here's my latest 'lens' (right) – painstakingly constructed from an old body cap and extension tubes, with the aid of a drill bit and piece of aluminium foil from the kitchen, attached with Evo Stick. The pinhole was a cheat, though – a needle has a finer tip. I do realise that a perfect-sized pinhole will work better and give sharper results. The point I want to make is that something very basic will do a half-decent job, and takes 10 minutes to construct.


To me, it makes more sense to spend little or nothing on a first experiment – next off might be gluing a cheap magnifying glass to a black paper tube, and sticking that to a body cap: two concentric tubes (one stuck to the lens and the other to the



The pinhole camera built cheaply by John body cap) will give a crude focusing mount. **John Duder, West Midlands**

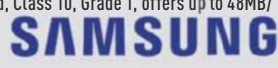
The essence of the article is going back to basics in terms of the photography style. Even with pinhole photography, you don't have to compromise on the quality of materials used. Laser-cut holes and 3D-printed mounts are at the premium end, while a piece of card and black electrical tape are at the other. The method of photography remains most basic – **Richard Sibley, deputy editor**

LETTER OF THE WEEK WINS A 16GB SAMSUNG SD CARD. NOTE: PRIZE APPLIES TO UK AND EU RESIDENTS ONLY



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Second-hand camera shops

Although the article on second-hand camera shops (AP 23 April) was interesting, there was one big gap – none were in London. Did someone throw darts at a map of UK! I am not knocking the shops listed, but I don't live in any of these areas. I only came

across Clock Tower Cameras in Brighton (below) as I had time to kill before and after a meeting. I don't think I will be heading to Wales or Scotland to ogle at some rare pieces. I like handling cameras and will probably buy the piece, not order it online. And if I don't like it, I have to send it back. Even though I don't go to

London as much as I used to, there is a greater likelihood of me going to London in a year than Brighton, where I have to go only once a year.

Mr G Durrance, Essex

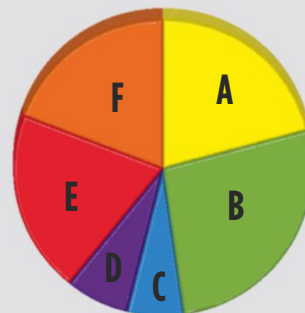
We'll have to hold our hands up to that glaring omission. If a store near you wasn't mentioned in the article, take a look through the adverts at the back of the magazine and you will be sure to find a store near you – **Richard Sibley, deputy editor**

Products with people

I've always loved the equipment and peripheral reviews alongside the technical pages, but was wondering if it would be possible to include people in the backpack and messenger bag reviews? ➔



Clock Tower Cameras in Brighton specialises in second-hand kit



In AP 28 May, we asked...

What is your most prized and valued accessory?

You answered...

A A bag	21%
B A tripod/support	27%
C A filter	6%
D A flash/light	7%
E A software application	20%
F Something else	19%

What you said

'I thought about this for some time. What, I wondered, might be the accessory I use most without even thinking about it? Then I realised. It's a camera strap'

'I'd put right-angle finder as an accessory to an SLR on a tripod – so much easier to use'

'SD memory – without it I have no resource to store my photos'

'Probably my macro ringflash'

This week we ask

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➤ There have been a couple of times I've seen a bag in the magazine that I thought I would like, only to find it was a lot bigger than I imagined. I appreciate that you give the dimensions of the product in the review, but I think seeing a model posing with the product would be of great practical help.

Peter Lawson, Bristol

Such an obvious suggestion. Yes! We will try to include a small shot of bags in use where we can – Richard Sibley, deputy editor

Film cameras

It's good that your magazine encourages the use of film cameras. I often use my late uncle's Voigtlander Vito C, with its Color-Skopar – a Tessar-style lens. It has little or no value on eBay, but its sentimental value is beyond price. On eBay, I see Leica M3 cameras with a 50mm f/2.8 Elmar lenses going for four-figure sums. The Elmar is the same as my Skopar – that is, a Tessar-style lens. When looking at the end result, I doubt anyone could tell the difference between the two cameras. It makes me wonder why the Leica is bought for thousands, but you wouldn't get a tenner



Ken Williams took this picture using a Carl Zeiss 135mm lens

for the Voigtlander.

Andrew S Redding, via email

While your Vito C has a famously fine Color-Skopar lens, the other differences compared to a Leica M3 are huge. The Vito C is a relatively simple fixed-lens, scale-focusing design, while the M3 is a supremely well-made camera with coupled-rangefinder focusing that accepts a huge range of superb M-mount lenses. There's also the magic of the Leica name. So the relative pricing of these cameras goes way beyond the respective quality of the optics. Enjoy the fact that you get superb results from such an overlooked camera – Andy Westlake, technical editor

Using old lenses

I read your article on the use of older inexpensive lenses on modern DSLRs (*Vintage Legacy*, AP 23 April) with great interest. I have been

using such lenses for quite some time. I took the photograph (above) in the Lake District using such a lens – a Carl Zeiss 135mm that cost £51. It does not say 'Zeiss Opton' or 'Carl Zeiss Jena', which places its age at between 1953 and the early 1960s when the Contax range of cameras was discontinued. Sadly, it is a Contax fit, and the adapter to Leica screw is quite expensive at £160. The camera I used is a Fujifilm X-Pro1. Almost any lens can be adapted to fit this camera. Leica-to-Fuji adapters are quite cheap. I have several lenses, including a Vivitar 70-210mm Series 1, which is outstanding and costs £40 including carriage, and a 53mm f/1.8 Helios lens. At f/1.8 the Helios is only acceptable, but treat it as an f/4 lens and you won't go far wrong as the image quality is outstanding. OK, you lose the autofocus, but as I always say, landscapes do not move very quickly.

Ken Williams, Liverpool

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In next week's issue On sale Tuesday 21 June

Undiscovered Britain



We reveal some of the country's most iconic and wonderful landscapes to visit away from the crowds

Nikon D500

Andy Westlake tests Nikon's flagship 20.9MP super-fast DX-format DSLR

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★★★★★ - AP Mag 4 stars for quality & value

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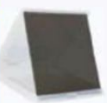


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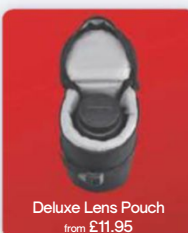
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Whatever the weather



With less than a month left for you to enter the 10th **Landscape Photographer of the Year competition**, founder **Charlie Waite** looks at how you can find some inspiration in that most British of conversation topics – the weather

Someone once told me that when people say, 'Britain is beautiful, but it's a shame about the weather', they always replied that Britain is beautiful *because* of the weather. How right they are. All the images in the nine years of the Take a view Landscape Photographer of the Year

awards have reflected Britain's weather, be it haze rising from a summer beach or a wind-lashed tree clinging to a rock face. There's still enough time to send in your entries for this year's competition, as the closing date for LPOTY 2016 is 10 July. The competition is divided into the adult Landscape Photographer of the

Year Award and the Young Landscape Photographer of the Year Award, with four categories (Classic View, Living the View, Urban View and Your View) for both awards. The overall winner will take home the LPOTY 2016 title and a top prize of £10,000. The category winners receive £1,000. Visit www.take-a-view.co.uk.



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Portsmouth Doug Chinnery

A cohesive relationship between sky and land is pivotal to the success of an image. You instantly react to this picture by seeing that it works because the lone cloud is positioned exactly over the building, and the black & white treatment removes distraction and makes you focus on the key elements. Simplicity can be very effective.



Rocquaine Bay Tim Harvey

Images of British weather don't have to be overly dramatic, but in this case Tim's image of huge waves battering the Guernsey coast certainly is, and reflects the storms we have seen over the past decade. The feeling of human helplessness against the forces of nature is palpable, whereas the birds are able to ride the storm with ease.

The New Forest David Baker

It is not possible to talk about British weather without mentioning mist. A dawn mist simplifies a landscape and can hide extraneous details and focus attention. David visited a nearby woodland on a number of occasions to create a series of images. The monochrome conversion creates a scene that would not be out of place in *The Lord of the Rings*.





© WILCO DRAGT



© JON GIBBS

Winter on Rannoch Moor Wilco Dragt

There is no doubt that the British weather frequently fails to comply with one's wishes, but a bit of lateral thinking can often result in a successful trip. When the weather is dull and the sky has little interest, intimate, detailed views become miniature landscapes in their own right. This image of ice patterns (top) is fascinating, and the ambiguous sense of scale draws in the viewer. The sweeping curves form an interesting juxtaposition with the little lines formed in the ice by the freezing process.

Storm over Scroby Sands Wind Farm Jon Gibbs

Jon's image of a wind farm off the Norfolk coast (above) was our first overall winner back in 2007, and a very memorable one. Weather conditions can be extremely localised, so it can be rewarding to previsualise an image close to where you live, so you can react quickly when you see the perfect light approaching, as Jon did. The concept here is strong, with the two power sources combining to result in a striking effect.

Rannoch Moor David Mould

A lot of different elements have to come together to make a successful rainbow photograph. A rainbow is not something that you can walk around, to make the perfect composition. In David's case, he managed to be in the right place at the right time, but then made the most of the opportunity that presented itself. The double rainbow set against the majesty of the mountain creates an image full of atmosphere.

© DAVID MOULD





© TONY GILL



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Langport, Somerset Tony Gill

⬆ The floods that have affected large parts of Britain in the past few years have been devastating, but create temporary landscapes that can make familiar views new and strange. Tony's image (top) has a quiet tranquillity, which is at odds with the storms that caused the scene.

Loch Tulla Fortunato Gatto

⬆ In the history of these awards, snow scenes tend to be peaceful views taken after the snow has fallen. This image (above) is different. A good photograph appeals to the senses, and here you can almost hear the wind whistling and feel the snow stinging your face as the cold eats into your bones.

Edinburgh Bill Terrance

⬆ This image stirs the imagination – you want to know why the person has decided to brave the weather and shelter out in the elements, rather than run for cover. The curving path leads your eye through the scene, and the water pouring down the channel adds further texture.

The closing date for LPOTY 2016 is 10 July. There are four categories – Classic View, Living the View, Urban View and Your View – and the overall winner will take home the LPOTY 2016 title and a top prize of £10,000. Each category winner will receive £1,000. Visit www.take-a-view.co.uk to enter and for information on entry fees.



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Reader Portfolio

We take a look at the top three UK EISA Maestro competition winners



EISA Maestro Competition winners

The theme of the 2016 EISA Maestro competition was landscape. The top three international winners selected from 16 countries will be chosen at the end of this month, and each will be

invited to Berlin to receive a cash prize and trophy. The overall winner from the UK, as selected by AP, is Grzegorz Piechowicz and we see his work here, as well as that of the two runners-up.

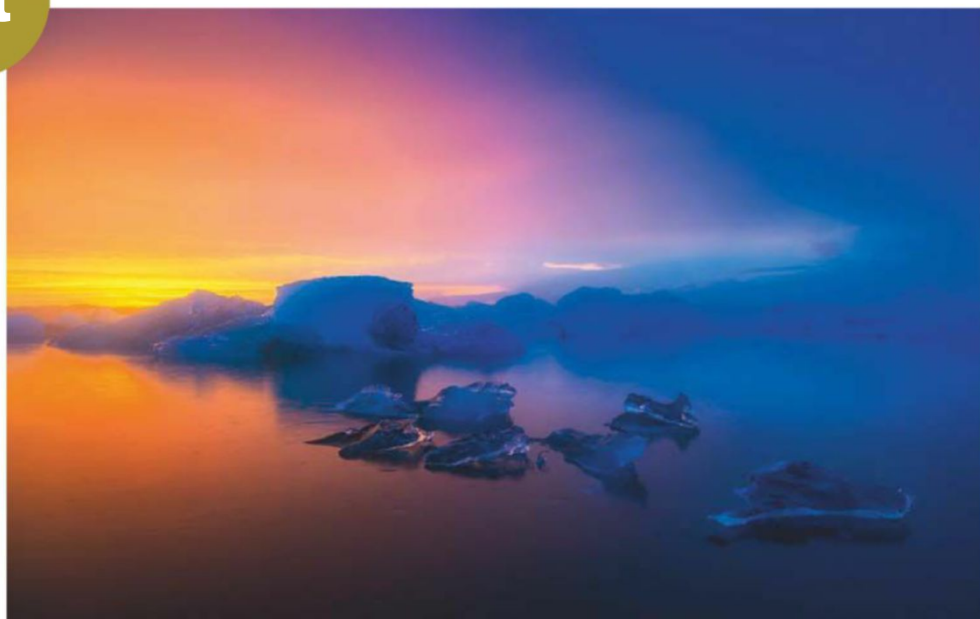


1st

Grzegorz Piechowicz, Glasgow

Grzegorz Piechowicz's educational background is actually in architecture, which has successfully complemented his other studies in art and design. He found himself spending a lot of time drawing and sketching, so it was a natural and logical progression for him to move into photography. In the future he would like to explore Norway and the Faroe Islands, the Ural Mountains in Russia, and the Tatra Mountains in his motherland Poland. But here in the UK he plans to visit the Outer Hebrides and Shetlands.

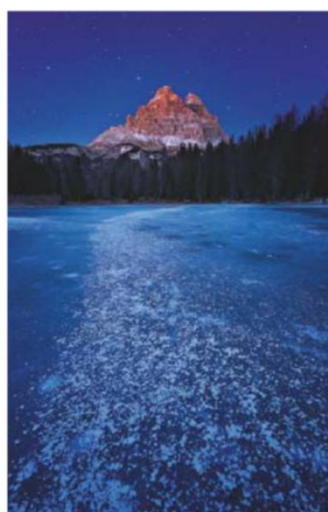
www.gpiechowicz.photography





The images

'The mountains are undoubtedly my favourite subjects,' says Grzegorz. 'I love spending time on a grand landscape image involving rugged peaks with an interesting foreground. There is a power and mystery in mountains that I find irresistible. I'm naturally drawn towards the wilderness of the Highlands and Islands. This varied environment combined with the notoriously unpredictable weather can produce real moments of magic that transform the landscape. I also enjoy spending time in the digital darkroom, perhaps as much as I do taking the pictures.'

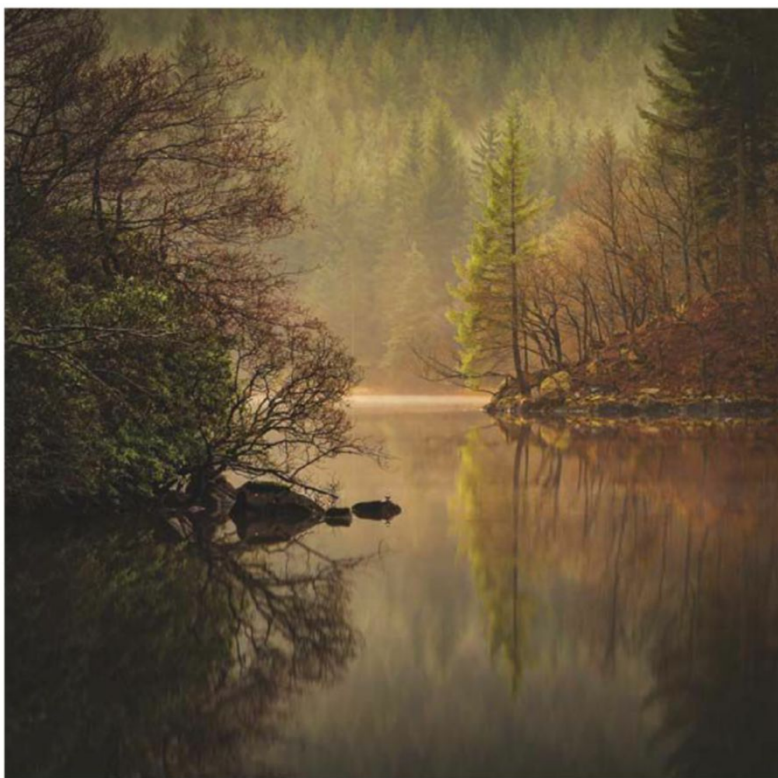
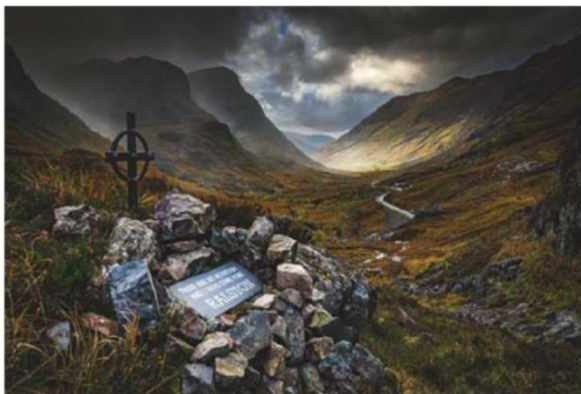


Reader Portfolio

Shahbaz Majeed, Dundee

Photography for Shahbaz began in 2007, when he found he experienced real enjoyment in the simple act of taking pictures. This motivated him to join his local camera club, which taught him much about camera control and composition. He soon improved and, as is evidenced here, has been successful in various competitions. www.framefocuscapture.co.uk

2nd



The images

'I love capturing moments that you can relive over time, as every image has a story behind it,' says Shahbaz of these images taken in areas such as the Isle of Skye and Glencoe. 'It is also great to hear about the connection people make to your work. We as photographers are lucky that we can connect with people through our images and allow them to create their own story from looking at a still.'

**Dylan Nardini,
South Lanarkshire**

Dylan first took an interest in photography while studying art & design at school, where he learned the basics in black & white film photography, developing and printing. His interest dwindled in his 20s but was picked up again in his 30s, where a few refresher courses and an OCA course reignited his passion for the art form. For 23 years he has travelled throughout Scotland as a freight-train driver. Some of the light that can be seen at different times of the day in all weather is, to Dylan, awe-inspiring and is the main reason he invests his free time in landscape photography.

www.dylannardini.com

3rd



The images
'As you can see in these images,' says Dylan, 'I love all things landscape, but I'm drawn to trees, particularly how light can make them dance and glow. Another thing I seem to like is farm walls. I don't know why, but the way they can snake through the land or roll up and down hills seems to grab my attention. I love the way the light can ignite a scene. It doesn't need to be a glorious morning sunrise light – witnessing even the smallest ray of afternoon light piercing the forest canopy can bring leaves, water or some flora to life.'

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The art of being a superhero

Mixing up models dressed as superheroes with classical painting techniques and then photographing the results seems a mad idea, but **Sacha Goldberger** pulled it off. **Tom Smallwood** finds out how he did it

If Darth Vader had been born in the 15th century, how would the Flemish painter Jan van Eyck have portrayed him? Most *Star Wars* and comic book devotees are unlikely to spend much time and energy worrying about such a question, but for French photographer Sacha Goldberger this, and other imponderables, turned into an obsession.

Like most people, Sacha became interested in superheroes when he was a kid, but at the same time that he was soaking up Spiderman and the Hulk, he was also observing the classic Flemish portrait paintings adorning his parent's house.

The result is Super-Flemish, an amazing cultural mash-up that combines American comic book and sci-fi personalities with the techniques of 15th century Flemish

portrait painting. It sounds bonkers, but it works brilliantly.

'These characters in my photographs have become icons to reveal their humanity,' Sacha explains. 'They are tired of having to save the world without respite, promised to a destiny of endless immortality, forever trapped in their character. The images allow us to discover, under the patina of time, the unexpected melancholy of those who are invincible.'

Cultural heritage

The collection caused a major stir when it debuted at the Grand Palais in Paris at the end of 2014. Thanks to social media, Sacha now has even more followers.

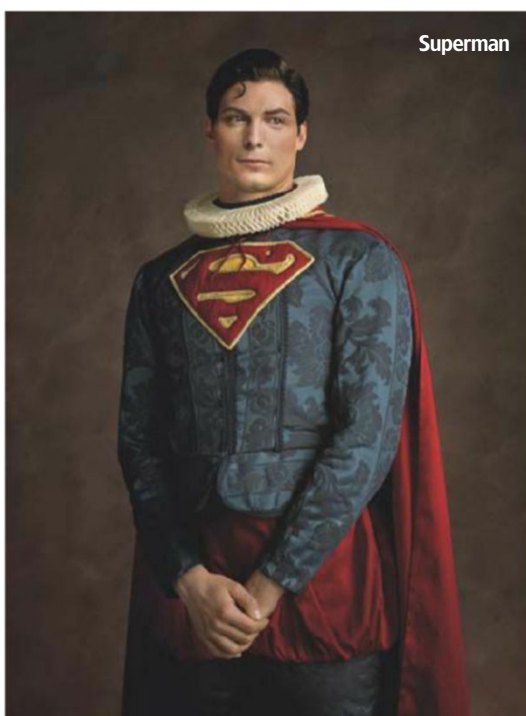
'Mixing up superheroes with the techniques of Flemish portrait painting was entirely my idea,'



Sacha is a French photographer who specialises in fashion and advertising. His books include *The Little Book of I Love You*, which has sold more than 100,000 copies worldwide, and 'Mamika', a series of photographs of his grandmother. See www.sachagoldberger.com



Princess Leia



Superman

explains the former art director turned photographer. 'I don't know where it came from, but I did a previous project called 'Mamika', where I shot my grandmother as a superhero.'

'I love comic books and I love Flemish painting, and every time I am in a major city I head to the art galleries. You have some lovely examples of Flemish art in London. I like to mix things that aren't supposed to mix.'

Being of Jewish ancestry, Sacha was also intrigued to discover many classic comic-book artists were Jewish, creating invincible characters such as Superman at a time when Europe's Jews were being persecuted by the Nazis. He began the Super-Flemish project by hooking up with local cosplay groups, where fans dress up as their favourite characters.

'They are very special people,' he



Batman
and Robin

says. 'It was great to meet them and see how it all works. But I realised I needed real actors and models as the cosplay people didn't look enough like the superheroes.'

So, Sacha and his casting director spent six to nine months trying to find lookalikes of Superman, the Joker and the rest from a wide pool of actors, models and comedians.

'Once we had the cast, I teamed up with a costume director who specialises in historical attire,' adds Sacha. 'Every costume was made specifically for the character.'

Personal project

As you can imagine, the Super-Flemish project didn't come cheap, eventually involving 110 people, including the cast.

'It was a personal project over three years, so I had to pay for it myself,' says Sacha. 'I wanted it to be perfect. Even though it



The Joker

ALL PICTURES © SACHA OUBREKER



Catwoman

➤ was a personal project, it had to be as good as the work I do for my clients.

'We had so many nice costumes, with five stylists as well as the costume designer. Then there were the backgrounds, objects made specifically for the shoot and so on.

'My next project, about history, is even bigger. There's a team of 150 involved. I may be the photographer, but all my strength comes from the great people I work with.'

However, bringing on board a large team didn't mean everything ran smoothly all the time.

'Everything about Super-Flemish was difficult in different ways,' Sacha reflects. 'Superman was particularly tough, as the guy didn't look much like him, so there was a lot of Photoshop morphing.'

For other characters, particularly the Hulk, the correct look was achieved in more traditional ways using special effects and make-up.

'The Hulk model wore a wig and his forehead was made from silicone. Then he was painted green. We didn't need to use Photoshop much for Princess Leia, either, as the model looked so like her in real life.'

The human factor

For Sacha, the spirit and emotion of the project are more interesting to talk about than the technical challenges.

'We love superheroes,' he says. 'They are very cool and very strong. Coming from the USA, nothing can happen to them. But they are not very *sympathique*; how do you say, not very "nice and friendly".'

'We humans are very ordinary, and in European culture, people are more human in terms of how they are portrayed in art. So Super-Flemish was all about taking these superhuman characters and putting

them in different settings and positions, in order to make them more human.

'I wanted to mix invincibility with humanity. For example, we originally had the Hulk screaming, but it didn't work so we decided to have him looking sincere – depressed, even. There's a contrast between Hulk as we imagine him, and Hulk in the picture.'

Sacha spent three years on the project and learned some valuable lessons along the way.

'I learned that nothing is impossible, however complicated it turns out to be in the end,' he says. 'With faith, energy, a good team and time, you can achieve anything.'

'I also learned a lot about lighting. With such a huge project, it was all about test and test again. Then, I learned that however good your team, no one person can do everything, so you have to identify their strengths.'

'It was like running a small company in some ways, but all the effort was worth it.'



Hulk

'The Hulk model wore a wig, and his forehead was made from silicone'

LIGHT AND SHADE

THE SUBTLE but striking lighting is a major factor in the success of these images. 'I studied the techniques of Flemish portrait painting a lot with my team,' Sacha explains. 'If you look at Rembrandt and these kinds of portrait painters, they used a lot of *chiaroscuro*, combining a light side with a darker side. It's soft, but also strong.'

To get this look with his superhero models, Sacha used two huge 4x4 softboxes.

'There were Elinchrom lights behind the larger softbox, which lit the character on one side,' he says. 'On the other side I used a smaller softbox to ensure the darks weren't too dark.'

Sacha used several backgrounds, painted by his set designer, and his camera of choice was a Hasselblad 503 CW with a Phase One P65+ back.

'I used 80mm or 120mm lenses, which were perfect. I don't like to use wideangle lenses for this kind of job.'



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Evening Class

Photoshop guru **Martin Evening** sorts out your photo-editing and post-processing problems

How to enhance detail

YOU CAN tell that Ivan Galic has put a lot of thought into the preparation for this photograph. By combining a high-ISO setting with a long exposure, Ivan was able to capture more detail in the starry sky than one would see normally, and the Milky Way is clearly visible on the right.

More than that, however, he has included a lot of interesting detail in the foreground, which really makes

this photograph stand out. He has chosen a great location to shoot from and the young man in the foreground adds a human dimension to the scene.

The backlighting adds drama, too, but when I looked at the photo close-up I could see the feet of the person who was holding the light in the background. I removed them using the Spot Removal tool in Camera Raw.

Submit your images

Please see the 'Send us your pictures' section on page 3 for details or visit www.amateurphotographer.co.uk

AFTER



BEFORE



1 Lighten the sky

I selected the Graduated Filter tool and added a graduated adjustment to the top half of the photograph. Here, I lightened the Exposure, reduced the Highlights and Vibrance, and boosted the Clarity to add more definition to the stars and reveal more detail in the Milky Way. I then added a +100 Dehaze adjustment to further increase the contrast.

2 Detail panel settings

The Graduated Filter lightening adjustment also emphasised the noise. This photo was shot at ISO 3,200, so some noise was to be expected. To reduce this, I enlarged the photo to a 100% view and, on the Detail panel, set the Luminance noise reduction slider to +40, the Color slider to +40 and the Color Smoothness slider to +100.



3 Tone and colour adjustments

Finally, I went to the Basic panel where I applied a custom white balance to make the image appear bluer. The Highlights and Shadows slider adjustments helped balance the tones better, while the Whites and Blacks slider adjustments were altered to add more global contrast.



How to darken an image in Camera Raw

COLIN Butler took this photograph around midday, with the sun poking through the clouds to create a dramatic contrast between the light on the castle and the dark clouds behind.

Although the 'before' image looks rather overexposed, this is rarely a bad thing if you are shooting raw, and you can be confident the increased exposure will not result in any of the highlight detail becoming clipped. In fact, such overexposed raw images will contain a greater amount of tone detail for you to edit with at the raw processing stage. In this example, it was clearly possible to darken the photo in Camera Raw to achieve the desired tone balance.

BEFORE



AFTER



1 Basic panel adjustments

The first step was to darken the original image, which I did by applying a negative Exposure adjustment. Having done that, I applied a +39 Whites adjustment to set the highlight clipping point and preserve the cloud contrast. I added a small amount of Clarity to help bring out the texture of the stonework.



2 HSL panel adjustments

In the HSL panel, I adjusted the Luminance sliders to lighten the orange, red and green colours, and darken the blues. This added more colour contrast to the scene. At the same time, I adjusted the Saturation tab settings in the HSL panel to make the stonework richer in colour.



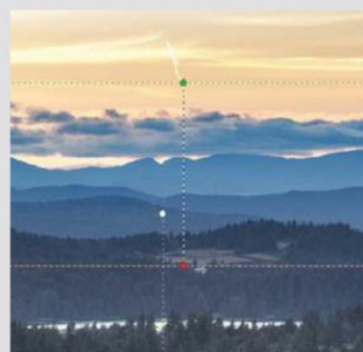
3 Add a Radial Filter

I applied an Auto Upright adjustment, combined with a clockwise rotation, to make the castle appear more upright. I then added a Radial Filter adjustment centred on the castle, where I applied the adjustments to the outer area of the filter adjustment. I also darkened the Exposure and Highlights slightly.

Dehaze adjustments

THE DEHAZE slider is a relatively new addition to Camera Raw and Lightroom. As the name suggests, it can be used to remove haze from a photograph. A Dehaze adjustment can compensate for atmospheric haze in photographs, as well as mist, fog or anything that contributes to the softening of detail contrast in a scene. You can drag this slider to the

right to apply a positive value to remove haze, or you can drag the slider to the left to add haze to an image. It is particularly effective when added as a Graduated Filter adjustment. As shown here, you can also use the Dehaze slider contrast to reduce the effects of light pollution and improve the contrast in photographs taken of the night sky.



Martin Evening is a noted expert in both photography and digital imaging. He is well known in London for his fashion and beauty work, for which he has won several awards. Martin has worked with the Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Lightroom engineering teams over many years and is one of the founding members of a software design company. Visit www.martinevening.com

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LOCATION GUIDE

Glastonbury Tor

Standing proud on the ancient Somerset Levels, **Glastonbury Tor** is a perfect subject on a misty morning, explains **Jeremy Walker**



KIT LIST

▼ Lenses

A moderate wideangle lens, 28mm or 35mm, is useful for misty morning images. Alternatively, a good-quality, mid-range zoom, such as a 24-70mm f/2.8, will give you excellent results. However, for a bit of drama in the mist, especially with a rising sun, you may wish to go for something a bit longer, such as a 70-200mm zoom.



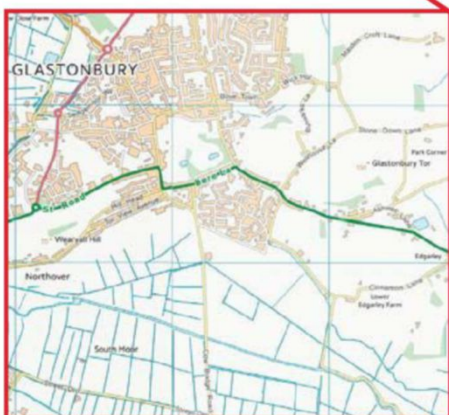
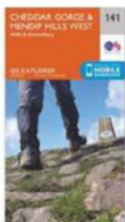
▼ Wellies

The Somerset Levels is a low-lying and very damp landscape. Wellies will be essential, but if you are in the market for a new pair, don't skimp. Good-quality thermal wellies will keep you and your feet happy. Cold, damp feet are not ideal for a morning spent shooting the Tor.



▼ Maps

An Ordnance Survey map of the area is essential. Follow the footpaths rather than wander aimlessly through the fields. The alternative is to download the part of the map you need from the OS website and print it on an A4 sheet. Mark possible locations and shooting angles the night before you head out.



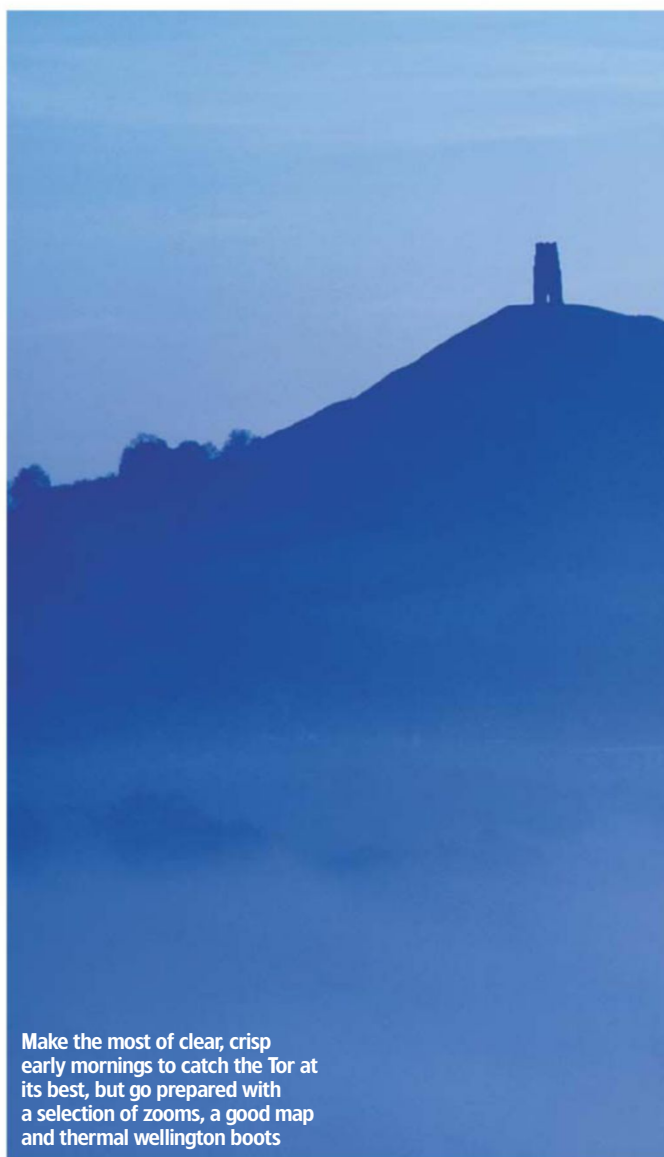
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RISING high above the Somerset Levels, historic Glastonbury Tor is visible from up to 20 miles away on a clear day. It's a reasonably easy walk to the top of this 500ft [152m] hill, with pedestrian access to the site from the north east via Stone Down Lane, or the south west from Wellhouse Lane.

Car parking is a nightmare. The local authority and the National Trust prevent it in the adjacent lanes, so your only option is to park in Glastonbury and walk, or catch the shuttle bus. The lanes around the Tor are a haunt for car thieves. Do not leave any camera kit in your car if you do decide to risk parking in the nearby lanes.

When you have a hill that is the highest for miles around, there is a temptation to climb to the top and shoot the view – but here's the thing: Glastonbury Tor and St Michael's Church are the subject. The best views are actually to be had from the south across the Somerset Levels looking back to the Tor. Look for Butleigh Road, Cow Bridge Road, Street Drove and Middle Drove where you will have excellent views across the Levels and the River Brue.

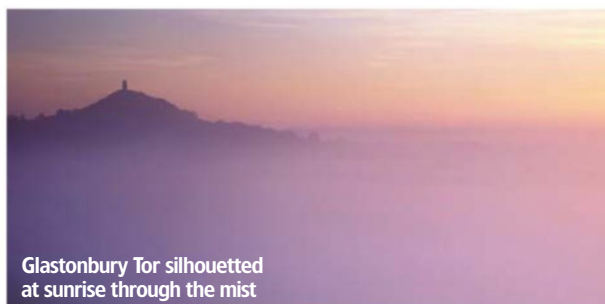
Another excellent viewpoint, although at first it doesn't look too promising, is Wearyall Hill. Car parking is very limited here but the walk up the hill, with the view back to the Tor on a misty morning, is memorable and well worth it. Having photographed Glastonbury Tor at sunrise, take time to go and have a look at the remains of Glastonbury Abbey as well.



Make the most of clear, crisp early mornings to catch the Tor at its best, but go prepared with a selection of zooms, a good map and thermal wellington boots



Drainage channels also form part of the landscape of the Somerset Levels



Glastonbury Tor silhouetted at sunrise through the mist



Jeremy Walker

Jeremy is an award-winning professional photographer and Nikon Ambassador specialising in location photography. Visit www.jeremywalker.co.uk

Shooting advice

Early start

For me, Glastonbury Tor is an early morning location. Owing to its proximity to the low-lying and very damp Somerset Levels, if there is mist to be had it will be at this time of day. Try to work out your angles so that you are shooting into the sun with the Tor silhouetted. Backlit, the mist will look much better.

The church and the hill can look a bit ordinary if you are not careful. This is one of those subjects that works by being a part of the overall landscape, rather than the main subject. Of course, there are close-ups to be had, with perhaps a long lens. I also think that a moon rising from the unique Somerset landscape plays an important part in placing the Tor and its church.

Make the most of the situation

Apart from Wearyall Hill and a handful of hills that are much further away, you will find yourself down in the mist. Try to make the most of the situation. It is nice to have a higher vantage point, but the chances are you will find yourself in the low-lying fields, so use what is around you to help tell your story.

Food and lodging

There are plenty of places to eat, including some excellent vegetarian and health-food cafés in the town centre.

There is also plenty of accommodation in the town and the surrounding area, including everything from Premier Inn and Travelodge hotels to farmhouse B&Bs. Unfortunately, I can't make a recommendation as I live close enough to shoot Glastonbury without requiring an overnight stay.

ALL PICTURES © JEREMY THAKKER

Use the low-lying fields around the tor to tell your story

Accessories

Useful gadgets to enhance your photography, from phones to filters...

Olloclip Studio

£79.99 • www.olloclip.com/shop/shop/iphone6-6s-studio

The Studio claims to release the potential in your iPhone.

Richard Sibley tries it out

At a glance

- Suitable for Apple iPhone 6 and 6s
- Hard case protects phone and screen
- Features tripod and accessory mounts

ALTHOUGH smartphones make for great point-and-shoot cameras, the processing power and connectivity they possess make them capable of so much more. The latest accessory from Olloclip aims to maximise what an iPhone 6 or 6s can do.

The Studio is essentially a rugged plastic case. It wraps around the back and sides of the iPhone, but where it gets clever is through its use of accessories that can easily snap into grooves around the case. Included in the kit are two different attachments that add a tripod mount for either portrait or landscape-orientated shooting. There is also a standard accessory mount which, like the tripod-thread mounts, can be slid and positioned into various locations around the edge of the Studio case.

You can, of course, mount the latest generation of Olloclip lenses. These are not included in the kit, but they offer the ability to convert the iPhone camera lens to a fisheye, ultra-wideangle, macro or telephoto lens.

Verdict

We mounted an iPhone 6 to a tripod and used the accessory shoe to hold a small Manfrotto LED light. While the Studio was suitable for photographs, it was best for shooting video. Instead of a tripod, we attached the Studio to a handgrip support, and the LED light became a fill-in light for video shooting.

At £79.99 the Studio isn't cheap, especially if you don't already have compatible Olloclip lenses. You can buy a cheaper, sprung tripod mount, as well as clamps and cases for LED accessory shoe lights. However, the Olloclip does both, and while photographers may never experience the full benefit of the case, for videographers who use Olloclip lenses this product is worth adding to your wish list.



COMPATIBLE OLLOCLIP LENSES

You can find a complete list of the lenses compatible with the Olloclip Studio at www.olloclip.com/shop/devices/iphone-6-6s-6-6s-plus. However, these three are our favourites:

Telephoto + Wide-Angle + Macro 10x + CPL lens

£99.99

This is a clip-on lens that converts your iPhone lens so it has a 10x macro lens, a wideangle lens and 2x teleconverter, as well as a Circular Polariser filter (CPL) to cut out glare and enhance colours.



4-in-1 lens

£69.99

For those on a budget or just starting out, the 4-in-1 lens offers a fisheye adapter, 10x macro, 15x macro and a wideangle converter, all at a reasonable price. The only thing that is missing from this lens is a telephoto option.



Active lens

£89.99

If you like outdoor sports, this Active lens may be for you. For that first-person style perspective it has an ultra-wideangle lens similar to a GoPro, while the 2x telephoto lens will enable you to get slightly closer to the action.



Kaiser SmartCluster Midi

£99 • www.kaiser-fototechnik.de



Amateur
Photographer
Testbench
Recommended
★★★★★

SmartCluster
is a compact,
easy-to-carry
LED light

KAISER'S SmartCluster Midi is a slimline LCD light with adjustable output for stills or video use. Measuring 115x71x21mm and weighing 135g, it will slip easily into a camera bag and can fit onto a small mirrorless camera without overbalancing.

Light is provided by an array of 80 surface-mount LEDs, with a nominal colour temperature of 5,800K. On measuring, it was closer to 6,000K with a slight green tint, which means it's wise to use a custom white balance. Power is provided by a replaceable NP-120-type lithium-ion battery that is operational for 90 minutes at full power, and can be recharged in situ via a standard micro USB socket. A dimmer dial allows the output to be adjusted, but while Kaiser claims it can be reduced to 9% of its full power, my review unit only allowed 1.3 stops adjustment in practice. Crucially, though, the colour balance stayed constant at all light levels.

The unit incorporates a standard tripod thread and comes with a hinged mount to fit onto the camera's hotshoe. A clip-on diffuser and a 3,200K colour-balancing filter for artificial light complete the package.

Build quality is acceptable without being outstanding. The plastic case and camera mount do not feel like they can take much abuse, but they should be just fine with careful use. The quality of light is good, giving accurate colour reproduction from an X-Rite Color Checker Passport test target. It also offers a very broad 120° of coverage that is easily sufficient for a 16mm (or equivalent) wideangle lens.

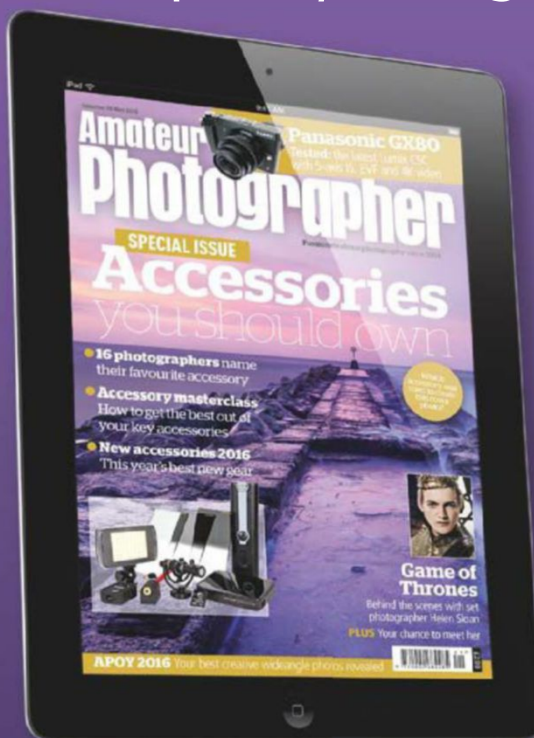
Overall, if you want a compact, easy-to-carry LED light for video or photo use, the Kaiser SmartCluster Midi is a neat unit that's well worth a look.

Andy Westlake



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At a glance

- Price £1,249
- 20.1MP, 1in sensor
- 24-600mm equivalent f/2.4-4 lens
- ISO 64-25,600 (extended)
- 3in, 1.23-million-dot LCD
- 2.36-million-dot EVF

Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX10 III

Does Sony's latest Cyber-shot RX10 III redefine what we can expect from a superzoom bridge camera?

Matt Golowczynski finds out

For and against

-  High-quality lens with extremely useful zoom range
-  Superb sensor produces fine stills and high-quality video
-  Very effective image stabilisation system
-  Broad range of pro-oriented video specs
-  Wi-Fi easy to set up and works well
-  Expensive
-  Max aperture of f/4 at 100mm
-  No built-in ND filter
-  Menu system not as intuitive as it could be
-  Purple fringing and blooming evident in some areas

Data file

Sensor	20.1MP, 1in CMOS
Output size	5,472x3,648
Lens	24-600mm equiv f/2.4-4
Shutter speeds	30-1/2000sec; 30-1/32000sec electronic
ISO	64-25,600 (extended)
Exposure compensation	±3EV in 1/3 steps
Drive mode	14fps-5fps with AF tracking
LCD	3in, 1.23-million-dot tiltable screen
Viewfinder	2.36-million-dot OLED, 0.7x magnification
Video	UHD 4K, 30, 25 or 24fps
Memory	SD, SDHC, SDXC, Memory Stick PRO Duo
Power	NP-FW50 rechargeable Li-ion
Battery life	420 shots per charge (LCD) 370 shots per charge (EVF)
Dimensions	132.5x94x127.4mm
Weight	1,095g (with battery and card)

With relatively small sensors and often over-ambitious lenses, superzoom bridge cameras have usually been overlooked by discerning photographers. Most people appreciate that a camera that tries to offer everything will not succeed on all fronts, but since releasing the Cyber-shot DSC-RX10 back in 2013, Sony has been doing impressively well to alter this idea.

With a Mark II update to that camera released only last year, the arrival of a third iteration so soon may seem somewhat premature, although Sony has stated that this new model will sit alongside the RX10 II rather than replace it. The only significant difference between the two models highlights why this is the case: while the Mark II

followed its predecessor in offering a lens equivalent to 24-200mm in 35mm terms, the new model increases this to 24-600mm.

Clearly, this presents a significant advantage for telephoto shooting, but it potentially makes it a viable option as a primary camera, in place of a DSLR or CSC. Needless to say, this extra stretch is a bold move, but with a four-figure asking price we should expect very little compromise.

Features

The Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX10 III is designed around a new Zeiss Vario-Sonnar T* 24-600mm f/2.4-4 lens that not only eclipses the range offered by previous RX10 models, but also edges ahead of the competition when focal range and aperture are





The camera's electronic shutter permits shutter speeds of up to 1/32,000sec to be used, which was the setting to freeze these water droplets

considered. The optic's maximum f/4 aperture at its telephoto end is impressive, but those familiar with the previous models may have noticed that the f/2.4 maximum aperture at the wideangle end also offers a ½-stop improvement over the f/2.8 seen in previous RX10 models. This does, however, close down to f/4 at the 100mm mark, which some may find disappointingly soon.

The lens can focus at a distance of 3cm away from the subject at its wideangle end and 72cm away at the other extreme. It also incorporates Sony's proprietary SteadyShot technology, which promises up to 4.5EV stops of correction when the lens is extended to its maximum focal length. Curiously, Sony appears to have quietly dropped the ND filter

that featured on both the RX10 and RX10 II.

The camera uses a similar sensor to the 1in Exmor RS model inside the RX10 II, with a backlit architecture for better light-gathering efficiency, as well as a stacked construction which is said to boost processing speeds. This principally benefits two key areas: the ability to record images at 14 frames per second and the option to record video at speeds of up to 1,000fps for the purpose of creating slow-motion footage.

Videos captured more conventionally can be output at a maximum 4K UHD resolution (3840x2160). The camera employs the same efficient XAVC S codec as Sony's other 4K-capable cameras, and this is used for both 4K and full HD

video, with 4K footage captured at a very respectable 100Mbps maximum bit rate. As an added bonus, the camera mirrors certain Panasonic models in allowing an 8.3MP JPEG to be extracted from 4K footage upon playback.

Sony claims the RX10 III's contrast-detection autofocus system can acquire focus in as little as 0.09sec, with spatial object detection to detect and predict a moving subject's motion (much like its 4D Focus technology seen elsewhere).

The inclusion of an electronic shutter means the camera's standard 30-1/2000sec shutter speed range can be stretched up to 1/32,000sec, with the further advantage of silent operation. This is also used when capturing images at the camera's 14fps

burst rate, which drops to 5fps when the mechanical shutter is employed. Another advantage of the DRAM chip's data handling is that moving subjects captured using fast shutter speeds are less likely to be affected by distortion from rolling shutter effects.

Wi-Fi and NFC have been integrated into the body, which allows for effortless image sharing and remote control with iOS and Android devices, although tethering via the camera's USB 2.0 port is also possible. As is fairly standard for a Sony model, the camera records on a choice of SD media (including UHS-I cards) and accepts the Memory Stick Pro Duo format.

The camera goes on to offer many useful features, including an electronic



levelling function to help keep the camera straight, and focus peaking for manual-focus adjustment. However, the option to record time-lapse footage is not built in as standard and instead confined to a paid-for PlayMemories app.

Build and handling

Incorporating such a bright and wide-ranging optic has come with the expected penalty to size and weight; the body is rather larger than that of the RX10 II, including around an extra inch or so in length for its lens, and the weight has increased from 813g to 1,095g (with a card and battery). The overall difference between the two is significant, but whether this is considered to be a bad thing will depend on who's using it and how; it could, after all, be argued that the heavier body aids stability when using longer focal lengths – exactly where much of the camera's appeal lies.

The longer lens barrel has allowed Sony to provide a third

lens ring around it, with the three providing control over aperture, manual focus and focal length (the latter is also adjustable by the collar around the shutter-release button). Sony has also made good use of space just behind the barrel by including a new focus hold button, although this and many of the other controls around the body can be customised.

Overall handling is very positive. The camera is built to a high standard using magnesium alloy and polycarbonate, although the extra weight compared with previous RX models lends it a greater feeling of solidity. Dust and moisture resistance, in the form of various seals around the body, is also very welcome.

Sony says it has reworked the grip to better support the new lens. When powered up, the lens extends by around 45mm, although it eventually retracts if the camera is being used for image review or menu browsing. The centre of gravity noticeably shifts as the lens is extended to its



Videos recorded in the camera's 4K option can have individual frames selected and saved as 8.3MP JPEGs in-camera



Video-recording options

VIDEOGRAPHERS are likely to be drawn to the RX10 III for its ability to record 4K UHD footage, but the healthy range of supporting options reveals just how confident Sony is that this camera will be for more considered work.

Those wanting a good starting point for flexible post-production can choose to record using Gamma S-Log2, with a new Gamma Display assist mode to

make it easier to assess this footage as it is being recorded. Videographers wanting to achieve a specific look in-camera can record using one of seven Picture Profiles. Each of these can have its black point, gamma, saturation and other parameters adjusted to taste.

Sony has also enhanced the Zebra pattern function included in previous models to make it easier to accurately assess the

highlight areas, and the option to attach time code to the file is also provided. Footage may also be output clean (uncompressed) through the HDMI socket.

Built-in microphones handle audio recording as standard, although a port at the side of the camera accepts a 3.5mm microphone. Furthermore, a headphone port underneath this allows audio to be monitored, with levels displayed on-screen.

maximum telephoto focal length, although the grip's design combined with the length of the outer barrel still allows for comfortable and secure handling when the optic is fully extended.

Usefully, the lens's zoom can be set to Normal or Fast speeds, and you can also configure it to stop at common focal lengths such as 35mm, 50mm and 100mm, or in either fine or coarse increments.

One thing that would be good to see, however, is the option to change aperture via the body itself. Only part of the aperture ring on the lens is ridged for purchase, and on a camera this small its proximity to the body and grip means that it can be awkward to rotate without bashing hands.

The inclusion of two custom controls near the shutter-release button is a nice touch, given how easily they can be accessed by the index finger. I found it useful to assign movie recording to one of these, as the position of the dedicated movie button next to the viewfinder makes it somewhat difficult to finish recording without shaking the camera.

Viewfinder and screen

The RX10 III partners a 3in, 1.23-million-dot LCD screen with a 0.39in, 2.36-million-dot OLED viewfinder. Mounted on a hinge, the LCD is tiltable by 107°



The lens has a minimum focusing distance of 3cm at wideangle and 72cm at telephoto. This image, captured at 500mm, shows how close you can get

upwards and around 42° downwards. As with previous models it lacks touch sensitivity. While touchscreens are undeniably useful – for example, to set the focus point – it's not a disastrous omission.

The slim screen adds little to the camera's overall profile, while the extent to which it can be pulled away from the camera's body makes it less susceptible to being blocked by the viewfinder's eyecup when viewed from above. The LCD's default brightness and contrast are pleasing, and its resolution is high enough for assessing manual focus. However, it benefits from a manual boost to brightness when used under harsh midday sun.

We've come to expect a lot from electronic viewfinders, and the one inside the RX10 III doesn't disappoint. It's clear, free from aberrations and largely free from noise, and its dynamic range appears to be wider than that of the LCD, with a broad range of details visible throughout a scene simultaneously. I also found its eye point to be just right for the entire screen and the information around it all to be visible. One minor issue is that the EVF's proximity sensor is easily confused into deactivating the LCD.

The menus are displayed clearly in both the viewfinder and EVF, although repeated calls for them to be overhauled for a more user-friendly interface sadly continue to be ignored. Every screen appears much like the next and options are more difficult to find than they ought to be. Even a simple colour-coded separation, which is present in some of Sony's other models, would make a difference.

Autofocus

Focus is speedy enough in good light, with just a slight slowdown when shooting with smaller apertures. Even at the telephoto end performance is sound, partly helped by the camera's tendency to acquire an approximate focus as the lens is zoomed. It's not quite as quick as some systems we've seen on other recent cameras, but not slower to the extent that it makes much difference.

It also doesn't fare too badly when set to track a moving subject, recognising its shape and adhering well as it moves around the scene. I was pleased with my overall hit rate when shooting continuously, although I found it initially struggled to get a lock if the subject isn't too dissimilar from its surroundings. A fast memory card is required here as it can take some time to flush all these images out from the buffer.

Some hunting occurs at the telephoto end of the lens if the camera can't identify the subject, and on occasion the camera fails to deploy its AF assist light where it would clearly be beneficial, again leading to a slowdown.

Performance

The effectiveness of an image-stabilisation system is vital on such a camera, so it's good to find this works well. The feed holds firmly when composing the scene through the viewfinder. This is so effective that some may find it actually hinders accurate composition in that the usual slow and continuous dragging of the feed is replaced by more defined jumps between positions as the camera drifts while handheld.

Its claimed effectiveness should make it possible to

Focal points

Sony's RX10 III is packed with impressive features

Zoom assist

This clever option keeps a lock on subjects that could be lost when composing images at a longer focal length. Once identified, releasing a button zooms the lens to the longer focal length.

Anti-distortion shutter

High-speed readout from the sensor can suppress the effects of rolling shutter (rendering moving subjects with distortions). This works to maximum shutter speeds.

Battery

The rechargeable battery is rated for up to 420 images when using the viewfinder screen and up to 370 frames when using the LCD, or around 65 minutes of best-quality video.

Top-plate LCD

This small LCD shows information on key exposure, battery life, shots remaining, white balance and drive modes; it can also be illuminated when it's too dark.



Mode dial

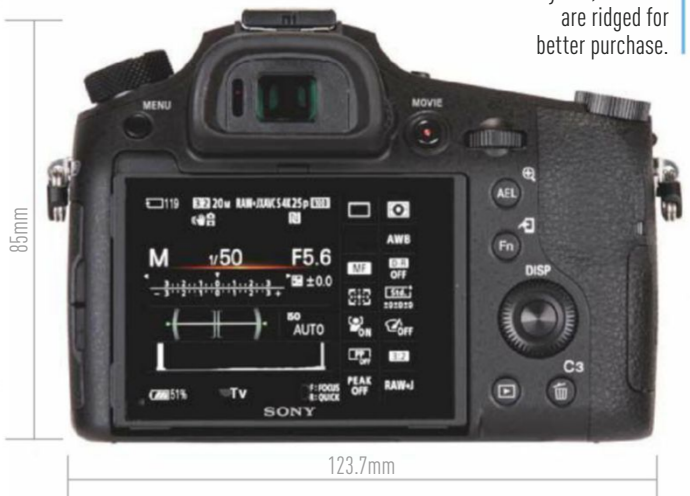
Together with standard exposure settings, the mode dial gives access to the movie mode, High Frame Rate video-recording options, the panorama option and memory recall mode.

Aperture ring

The aperture ring around the optic can be clicked to provide a physical cue that aperture has changed, or de-selected for more discreet operation during movie recording.

Exposure compensation dial

As on the RX10 II and RX10, this dial allows the user to apply up to three stops of exposure compensation in either direction in 1/3-stop increments. While relatively flat, its sides are ridged for better purchase.





While the RX10 III isn't the obvious choice for low-light photography, this image captured at ISO 1,600 shows very good detail in such circumstances

capture acceptably sharp images at around 1/30sec at the 600mm end. Using the viewfinder, I found it was possible to achieve this, although only in-between many blurred results.

Raw files opened in Photoshop show practically no distortion and very little lateral chromatic aberration, although opening these files in Capture One Express – a downloadable trial of which is provided with the camera – shows this fine performance can be attributed to a profile embedded within the raw file. Here, a moderate amount of distortion is apparent at both ends of the objective, although chromatic aberration, while present, is low. Perhaps most crucially, although some softness can be seen in corners, detail across the frame remains relatively consistent.

I found the camera's metering system did an excellent job to expose appropriately for a range of scenes, doing particularly well when faced with a high-contrast scene with large areas of highlight detail that can easily sway many cameras into underexposure. In such a scene this can cause highlights to blow their detail, and against defined edges, such as a window frame, this can have the effect of causing blooming and purple fringing.

Sony's Dynamic Range Optimizer technology has proven itself in previous models, and once again it helps to bring up shadowy areas in such scenes where necessary. Examining JPEG files with their raw counterparts shows some of the finest highlight detail to be lost in the former, although plenty more can be successfully regained with careful post-

processing. I was also pleased with the reasonable amount of detail that could be teased out of shadow areas in underexposed raw images.

Colours produced using the default Standard Creative Style appear to be largely accurate, although I often made use of the Vivid option for its ability to make colours more vibrant without being too artificial, particularly when shooting flowers, foliage and so on. Colour accuracy is helped by a largely unerring auto white-balance system, which maintains a strong performance under combinations of natural and artificial light.

The standard of video is impressive. There is plenty of detail in 4K footage and movement is nice and fluid. Face detection also does a great job, and the slight sound from the lens is usually masked by ambient noise. Aliasing artefacts are low in many scenes, but noticeable in those that contain problematic subjects such as architecture. Audio quality is perfectly good, although activating the wind filter is advisable outdoors.

The High Frame Rate options are also fun to experiment with, although there is a marked difference in quality between the three options available. The 250fps maintains good detail and is free from artefacts, but things turn sour at 1,000fps which really needs good light to be usable.

The ability to lift 8.3MP JPEGs from 4K video footage is both useful and well implemented. Footage can be rewound and fast-forwarded until the desired point is reached, and the high resolution of the screen allows you to check focus.



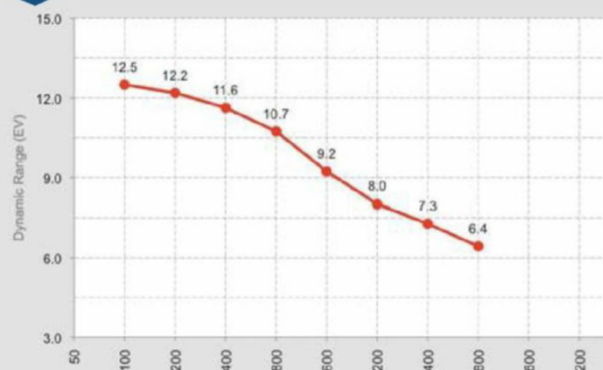
Lab results

Andrew Sydenham's lab tests reveal just how the camera performs

The Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX10 III makes use of a 20.1MP, 1in CMOS sensor of the kind that has been employed in Sony's recent RX models. Although Sony hasn't explicitly made any claims regarding improvements over the performance of the RX10 II, there appear to be (very) slight changes for the better here with regards to dynamic range and resolution – although the latter will be a reflection of the lens as well as the sensor.

Dynamic range at the lower end of the ISO scale is perfectly respectable, and while considerably lower later on, the drop isn't any deeper than expected. The impressive resolution may please those using the camera to capture images with finely detailed subjects such as birds or wildlife, while the respectable noise performance also means it may be used in poorly lit environments with success.

Dynamic range



Unsurprisingly, our Applied Imaging tests show the RX10 III's sensor to offer similar dynamic range to that of the RX10 II. At its base ISO of 100 it offers 12.5EV, on par not just with many Micro Four Thirds cameras, but also some APS-C DSLRs. Readings fall only slowly to 11.6EV at ISO 400, but drop off more quickly at higher sensitivities. Nonetheless, 8EV at ISO 3,200 is quite respectable, but higher ISOs will show noticeable shadow noise.

Resolution

RAW ISO 64	RAW ISO 100	RAW ISO 400
34	34	32
RAW ISO 1,600	RAW ISO 6,400	RAW ISO 12,800
30	27	26

Despite the much more ambitious lens design compared to that in the RX10 II, it's pleasing to see that resolution remains at least as good. JPEGs show 3,200l/ph resolved at ISO 100 and 2,600l/ph at ISO 6,400, and the fall in resolution follows the familiar pattern of slight changes at the lower end of the spectrum and more defined jumps through the middle and higher settings. Raw files do show a slight advantage over JPEGs, with 3,400l/ph at low ISO settings falling to 2,700l/ph at ISO 6,400.



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Noise

Both raw and JPEG images taken from our diorama scene are captured at the full range of ISO settings. The camera is placed in its default setting for JPEG images. Raw images are sharpened and noise reduction applied, to strike the best balance between resolution and noise.



RAW ISO 64



RAW ISO 100



RAW ISO 400



RAW ISO 1,600



RAW ISO 6,400



RAW ISO 12,800



The camera has its standard sensitivity range of ISO 100-12,800 augmented by expansion settings equivalent to ISO 64 and ISO 80 (at the usual expense of highlights potentially clipping to white sooner). At lower sensitivities there's not much to grumble about with regards to noise, with clean and detailed images. Integrity is maintained very well up until around ISO 1,600, and even after this point it stays decent, although as is the case with many cameras, the top setting – that is, ISO 12,800 – is best reserved for when absolutely necessary. Processing raw files carefully can result in very good detail in images captured throughout much of the sensitivity range, and although the effects of noise reduction make themselves known, it's still possible to end up with a perfectly good level of detail in many scenes up to ISO 1,600 at least.

The competition



Canon PowerShot G3 X

Price £599

Sensor 20.2MP, 1in

ISO 125-12,800 (extended)

Half the price of the RX100 III, the PowerShot G3 X doesn't offer a viewfinder nor 4K video, but with a 20.2MP, 1in sensor and 24-600mm-equivalent focal lens – although with a slower f/2.8-5.6 aperture – it's a capable alternative.



Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ1000EB

Price £549

Sensor 20.1MP, 1in

ISO 80-25,600 (extended)

Despite being older than its peers, Panasonic's flagship bridge camera compares well. It combines a 20.1MP, 1in sensor with a 25-400mm f/2.8-4 lens, and matches the RX10 III in offering 4K video and a 2.39-million-dot EVF.



Sony Cyber-shot RX10 Mark II

Price £1,038

Sensor 20.2MP, 1in

ISO 100-25,600 (extended)

Essentially, this includes much of what the RX10 III offers but with a 24-200mm f/2.8 lens in place of the longer one. It's designed with a smaller and lighter body because of this, although key specifications are pretty much the same.

Our verdict

THE Cyber-shot DSC-RX10 III is an impressive achievement from Sony, and it is difficult to come away from using it feeling underwhelmed. Although it covers much the same territory as the RX10 II, the increase in focal range over previous models makes it far more viable as an alternative to a DSLR or mirrorless camera than its two predecessors.

Is it fit as a replacement for such a model? In many respects, yes. Its sensor is clearly capable of capturing very good detail, even at higher sensitivities, while the expansive optic is sharp and blessed with effective image stabilisation. Those scrutinising images closely will appreciate that it can't always match the clarity offered by the combination of a camera with a larger sensor and a high-quality lens, but it does a mighty good job of trying. With the further advantage of sound metering and accurate colour, it is easy to get quality results without recourse to post-processing, although some may wish for

in-camera raw processing.

The list of additional advantages that sweeten its appeal is exhaustive, from its high-quality viewfinder, detailed video footage and the various benefits of its electronic shutter. The lack of a touchscreen isn't too significant on such a camera, but a handful of ergonomic revisions would result in a more pleasing user experience, as would a menu system that isn't quite as tedious to navigate.

Perhaps its main issue is the same one that has troubled previous RX-series models: price. While you'd be hard pushed to find an equivalent DSLR or CSC and lens for the same money, the camera's main rivals have already enjoyed some time on the market, and this has significantly lowered their asking prices from where they originally began. This leaves the RX10 III undeniably better specified in most areas but significantly dearer.

Price aside, the RX10 III is a stellar camera that's flexible in both stills and video recording.



FEATURES	9/10
BUILD & HANDLING	9/10
METERING	9/10
AUTOFOCUS	8/10
AWB & COLOUR	9/10
DYNAMIC RANGE	9/10
IMAGE QUALITY	9/10
VIEWFINDER/LCD	9/10

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Chromatic aberrations are handled well, and optimum sharpness found at f/5.6 between 70mm and 100mm



Sigma 50-100mm f/1.8 DC HSM | A

Is Sigma's second APS-C zoom lens with a constant maximum aperture of f/1.8 as good as the first? **Michael Topham** puts it to the test

Three years ago, Sigma provoked genuine excitement among photographers by developing the world's first DSLR zoom with a maximum aperture of f/1.8 across its focal range. Not content with just the one optic in the Art series of fast-aperture zooms, Sigma's engineers have burnt the midnight oil and produced their second f/1.8 zoom, which was showcased at the CP+ 2016 expo in Japan earlier this year. Ever since the wraps first came off the Sigma 50-100mm f/1.8 DC HSM | A, we've been waiting to lay our hands on a review sample to find out how well it performs at covering the focal lengths of three popular

prime lenses and whether it's another lens APS-C DSLR users should add to their wish list.

Features

First, it's important to take note of the initials 'DC' in the lens name. This indicates it's a lens that's optimised for DSLRs with APS-C-sized image sensors, and just like Sigma's 18-35mm f/1.8 DC HSM it cannot be used on full-frame cameras without vignetting. The effective angle of view is equivalent to 75-150mm when it's paired with an APS-C DSLR with a 1.5x crop factor, or 80-160mm when it's coupled with a Canon APS-C DSLR that imposes a 1.6x multiplication. The fact that it covers three

popular focal lengths in one (85mm, 105mm and 135mm equivalent) makes it a highly attractive proposition for photographers who would like to avoid carrying three prime lenses, while also saving the hassle of interchanging lenses on the go – a frustratingly slow process that can sometimes prevent capturing a shot at the opportune moment.

Recognised as a mid-telephoto zoom, this is a lens that will see regular use in the hands of those who like to shoot





The lens produces a very shallow depth of field when it's opened to f/1.8

➤ portraiture and document events such as weddings, but its large aperture also makes it a great candidate for other subjects and environments, such as sports, or low-light scenes where a couple of extra stops can be beneficial. It should also be noted that it's a parfocal lens, meaning that once focus is acquired, the lens maintains that focus at all focal lengths – a particularly useful feature for videographers.

The construction of the lens features 21 glass elements arranged in 15 groups, and to help minimise axial and transverse chromatic aberration three of these elements are the 'F' low-dispersion (FLD) type, one is the special low dispersion (SLD) variety and there are a further three high-refractive index SLD glass elements.

The lens flaunts a nine-blade aperture to create attractive blur in the out-of-focus areas of the image and features Sigma's Hyper Sonic Motor (HSM), which in addition to driving the autofocus system, offers full-time manual focusing. This allows users to adjust the focus manually at any time without having to flick the AF/MF switch to manual first. The size of some of the HSM motor's parts has been reduced compared with those in older lenses, resulting in it being 30% slimmer than before.

The diameter of the lens's diaphragm is the second largest in the Sigma lens line-up, and to ensure the diaphragm operates as smoothly as possible its blades are made from a carbon feather film, with the rest of the unit being made from a new polycarbonate material that's said to be exceptionally durable and wear resistant. As has become standard practice on Sigma lenses, this lens employs Super Multi-Layer Coatings to prevent flare and ghosting. Other features include a minimum focusing distance of 95cm and the lens

accepts screw-in filters and filter adapters via an 82mm thread at the front.

The lens is presented in a soft case to offer protection when it's stored or transported, and as well as a rear cap and a sizeable front lens cap, a large plastic petal-shaped lens hood is supplied. It's finished in two-tone black and attaches to the front with a simple 90° twist.

Build and handling

The lens was paired with the Canon EOS 80D and EOS 7D Mark II during testing. Not too dissimilar to the size and weight of a 70–200mm f/2.8 telephoto zoom, the Sigma 50–100mm f/1.8 felt better balanced coupled to the larger body of the EOS 7D Mark II, but didn't feel unwieldy with the smaller EOS 80D.

The fast aperture makes it easy to separate details and points of interest from their surroundings



Unlike many telephoto zooms that benefit from built-in optical image stabilisation, this is one feature Sigma decided to exclude from the lens. To capture shake-free handheld shots, users will find themselves cradling the lens three quarters of the way down the barrel to improve stability, but there's always the tripod collar to turn to if you'd prefer to mount the lens to a tripod or monopod for extra support. The size of the tripod collar plate is fairly small and doesn't extend far below the zoom ring, so you can't use it to get a secure hold of the lens as you can with more substantial tripod collars. It's permanently attached and cannot be removed, either. Loosening the collar screw allows you to quickly switch between horizontal and vertical shooting, and there are 90° click stops that act as a useful guide when your eye is raised to the viewfinder.

The construction and overall build quality of the lens meets the high standard we've come to expect from Sigma's elite range of lenses that are adorned by the silver 'A' badge on the barrel. At the rear there's a durable metal lens mount, ahead of which you'll find the tripod collar and large knurled screw. The diameter of the barrel widens slightly at the point you reach the zoom ring, which is encircled in rubber to provide sufficient grip when operating the lens with wet hands or gloves. It operates smoothly across its range with a quarter turn, and just ahead of it are clear focal-length markings at 50mm, 60mm, 70mm, 85mm and 100mm, with a focus-distance scale expressed in feet and metres. The AF/MF switch stands proud at the side, and the focus ring, which is slightly larger in diameter than the zoom ring, provides precise manual focus control through an angle of approximately 150° from the minimum focusing distance (0.95m) to infinity. It



This image illustrates the vignetting that's created when the lens is used at its widest focal length at f/1.8

operates with just the right level of resistance and benefits from a rubber grip like the zoom ring, albeit being slightly finer grooved to make it easier to differentiate between the two from behind the camera.

Image quality

The lens produces a strong set of results, and at 50mm the sharpness in the centre improves as the aperture is closed down to f/2.8, with optimum sharpness being located around f/4. Pushing towards 70mm sees the edge sharpness drop slightly at f/1.8, but centre sharpness remains high and continues to improve as the lens is stopped down to f/4. The sweet spot between centre and corner sharpness is located closer to f/5.6–f/8 at 70mm. Sharpness in the centre and at the edges isn't quite as high at 100mm when the lens is used wide open, but again sharpness quickly improves by stopping the aperture down by a few stops. For the sharpest results across the frame at full telephoto, users will want to dial in an aperture value between f/5.6 and f/8. For those who'd like to create a larger depth of field, f/11 is usable, but the level of sharpness visibly declines at f/16 owing to the blurring effect of diffraction.

The lens exhibits vignetting when it's used wide open at the widest end of the zoom range, but it quickly disappears when closed down to f/2.8. It's a similar story at longer focal lengths, with corners appearing around 0.8EV–1EV darker than at the centre at f/1.8. Stopping the lens down to f/2 sees an improvement, and by f/2.8 vignetting clears up almost completely.

An examination of images taken of our distortion chart shows that there's negligible barrel distortion at the wide end of the zoom that gradually converts to pincushion distortion as you push towards 100mm. However the degree of curvilinear distortion is far from severe and it isn't immediately obvious in real-world images.

Our verdict

THE APPEAL of the Sigma 50–100mm f/1.8 DC HSM | A might be limited to those using APS-C cameras, but this doesn't take anything away from what is an outstanding lens. If you are like me and want to create attractive background blur behind subjects at mid-telephoto lengths without having to change a lens while lugging around two or three fast primes, you'll fall in love with this lens and quickly get addicted to using it at its maximum aperture.

Full-frame users will be slightly jealous of this lens. Its arrival couldn't be better timed either, following up on the recent releases of the Nikon D500 and Canon EOS 80D enthusiast-focused DSLRs. It complements the also excellent 18–35mm f/1.8 in Sigma's range of APS-C-format zooms and is fittingly priced at less than £1,000. If you own an APS-C DSLR and are considering a 50mm, 85mm or 105mm prime, you'll want to add this zoom to your 'lenses to consider' list.



Data file

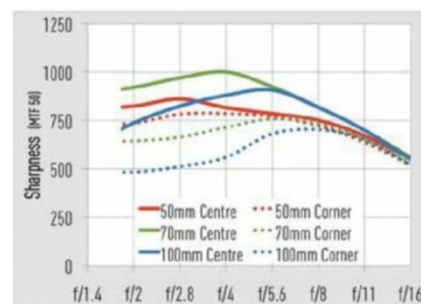
Price £829
Filter diameter 82mm
Lens elements 21
Lens groups 15
Aperture blades 9
Aperture f/1.8–f/16
Minimum focus distance 95cm
Dimensions 93.5 x 170.7mm
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Included Lens caps, lens pouch, lens hood

Amateur Photographer Testbench GOLD
 ★★★★★

Sigma 50-100mm f/1.8 DC HSM | A

Resolution

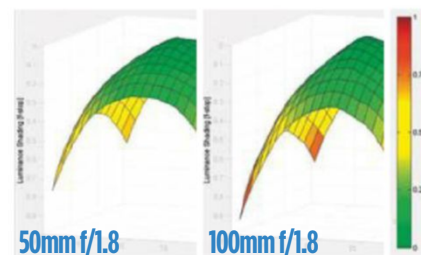
The graph tells us this lens is at its sharpest in the centre at 70mm, with corner sharpness improving as the aperture is stopped down to f/5.6. Centre sharpness isn't quite as high at the wide or tele ends. Optimum sharpness at the wide end of the zoom is found between f/4 and f/5.6, whereas at 70mm and 100mm it's located closer to f/5.6–f/8.



50mm centre — 50mm corner
 70mm centre — 70mm corner
 100mm centre — 100mm corner

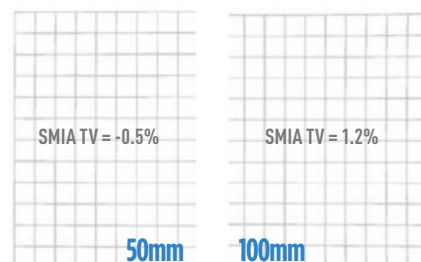
Shading

The lens displays most vignetting at 100mm, but it's not severe and is quickly dealt with by stopping the lens down to f/2.8. It's a similar story at the wide end of the zoom, with the corners appearing approximately 0.7EV darker than at the centre of the image. Closing down to f/2 sees an improvement, and by f/2.8 vignetting is no longer noticeable.



Curvilinear distortion

Shooting at the wide end of the zoom does introduce some barrel distortion, which switches to pincushion distortion at around the 70mm mark. Users will find lens profile support available in Adobe Lightroom CC 2015.5, Lightroom 6.5.1 and the latest version of Adobe Camera Raw 9.5.



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Software for Fujifilm raw files

Q I've been a user of Nikon film and full-frame digital cameras for a number of years, but am finding the gear a little heavy to carry around. I now have a Fujifilm X-T1, as I wanted something lighter. I was very keen to use the X-T1's raw files, but when I tried to read them in Photoshop 11, I received an error message that its version of Camera Raw does not support these raw files and cannot open them. What can I do to rectify this?

There seem to be three options: First, I can simply download the most up-to-date version of Camera Raw and run it as a plug-in in Elements 11. Second, I need to get a more updated version of Elements to do this, but if I update Elements, will I still be able to use my treasured Nik Silver Efex Pro 2 black & white software? Third, would I be better off getting the latest version of Adobe Lightroom and using Camera Raw via that? I have heard many good things about Lightroom, and this might be the time to convert to it. Which option would you recommend?

Adrian Lewis

A Generally, any given version of a raw-conversion program only supports cameras that were available while it was current. So when Adobe moves to a new version of Elements, it's no longer possible to get Camera Raw updates to support newer cameras for previous versions. Photoshop Elements 12 replaced version 11 in September 2013, but the X-T1 was released in January 2014. So even if you update your version of Elements, it's unlikely to support the X-T1. Because of this, you'll need to get either an updated version of Elements or change to

Small flash for Canon

Q I have a Canon PowerShot G5 X, and am looking for a small flash that balances well on the camera. I do have a Canon EOS Speedlite 270EX II, but it has no swivel head for portrait mode. Do you know of any similar-sized third-party ones that are good and reliable that fit the bill?

Ian Davey

A The Canon PowerShot G5 X is amazing. I love the camera. The perfect flash for it is the Nissin i40 flashgun. This is what many CSC shooters use with their cameras. They have a Canon fit; it is small and inexpensive,

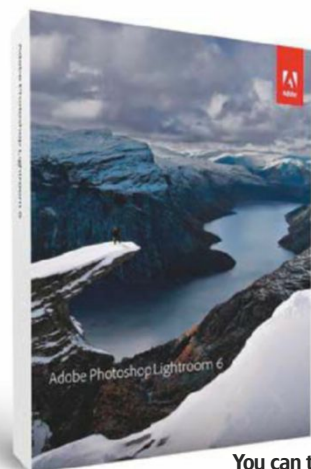
the head tilts and it is powerful enough for just about everything you'll want to do with it. If you want more power, try the Cactus Wireless Flash RF60. It's about the same price, bigger and has a tilting head. But the best feature is that it has a built-in transceiver so you can couple it with a Cactus Wireless Flash Transceiver V6 trigger and use it off-camera. Overall, the i40 would suit you better if you're just using it with the G5X. But if you think you might change to a DSLR in the future,



The Nissin i40 is an ideal flashgun for the G5 X

need more power or want to get creative with your flashes, go for the Cactus RF60. **Callum McInerney-Riley**

Lightroom. The two are rather different, as Lightroom offers much more sophisticated image management and workflow tools. The good news is that you can download trial versions of both Lightroom and Elements 14, and try them for a month before you buy, to decide which works better for you. Elements 14, incidentally, is currently on a special offer price of £55.27 from Adobe's website



You can try Lightroom before you buy

(www.adobe.com/uk).

As for Silver Efex Pro, the Nik collection has recently been made free by its owner Google, so you can download the most up-to-date version whenever you like. Visit www.google.com/nikcollection for full details.

Andy Westlake

Flash settings

Q I recently bought a second-hand Canon 580EX II Speedlite, but to my disappointment it doesn't seem to emit a red AF assist beam like my Canon 430EX II Speedlite. Most of my photography is carried out in low light, and without it I'm finding it a real struggle to acquire fast and accurate focus. Have I bought a faulty flashgun that needs sending back, or am I missing something in the settings?

Paul Davenhurst

A New Canon Speedlites have the AF assist beam enabled by default, but with yours being second-hand, the previous owner may have decided to disable this function.

To check the status of the AF assist beam you'll want to press and hold the display illuminator button at the top left, which doubles as the Custom Function button. The 580EX II offers 14 custom functions (C.Fn-00-C.Fn-13) and you'll want to use the dial to scroll through to C.Fn-08, which is the function that controls AF-assist beam firing. If it's set to 1 (shown by Fn 08 1) the AF-assist beam has been disabled and you'll want to change this back to 0 (shown by Fn 08 0) to enable it. It's worth giving the flashgun another test in a dark room to see if this has solved the problem.

The other point you'll want to be aware of is that the AF assist beam won't work if your Canon DSLR is set to AI-servo mode. If you've been continuously focusing with the camera set to AI-servo, try switching the focus mode back to One-Shot or AI-focus and you'll find the AF-assist beam will instantly start working again.

Michael Topham



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My life in cameras

Travel and documentary photographer Darragh Mason Field reveals the cameras that he's used in his career

Darragh Mason Field



London-based Irish photographer Darragh Mason Field studied photography at Dublin City University. His photographs have been among the top 50 images selected for Travel Photographer Asia 2015 and his

clients feature *Geographical* magazine, the Royal Navy and Eagle Creek. Visit: www.darraghmasonfield.com.

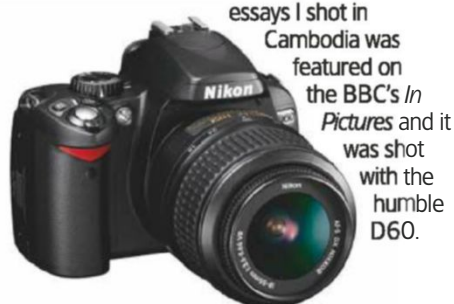
1989 Asahi Pentax

My mum, who is a skilled photographer in her own right, gave me this camera when I was at college majoring in photography. Film was expensive so I used it sparingly, which really made me think about composition and making the best of each frame. This helped to sharpen my eye for a shot.



2008 Nikon D60

I picked up the D60 when I was travelling in Thailand. I had left my Pentax at home and my point-and-click model wasn't up to the job. I couldn't afford the D90, so bought the D60 with the kit lens and used it all over south-east Asia. One of the



essays I shot in Cambodia was featured on the BBC's *In Pictures* and it was shot with the humble D60.



© DARRAGH MASON FIELD



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Reid III

Ivor Matanle on the British version of the Leica IIIb

LAUNCHED 1947 (available 1951)

PRICE AT LAUNCH £126 with 50mm f/2 TTH lens

GUIDE PRICE TODAY £2,500 for a flash-synchronised Reid III with 50mm f/2 TTH lens

THE REID was virtually a copy of a Leica IIIb. It was made by Reid and Sigrist Ltd of Leicester, with the help of drawings for the Leica IIIb found at Wetzlar, Germany, by British Intelligence. It was first announced in London in 1947, although was not on the market until 1951 and not known as the Reid III until 1958. It was designed for the British market, which was starved of real Leicas by postwar import controls. However, it is not a copy as the manufacturer introduced improvements, and many of the parts are not interchangeable with those of a Leica IIIb.

The Taylor Hobson 50mm f/2 lens was the usual (and correct) standard lens for the camera and is a fine performer, though not brilliant by modern standards. Its original polished steel lens cap is now highly prized among collectors. The lens is rangefinder coupled; the rear coupling ring, which moves in and out as the focusing mount is operated, bears on the circular rangefinder coupling wheel visible in the lens throat when the lens is unscrewed. This coupling is identical to the Leica's, and Leica screw-mount lenses fit and couple to the Reid.

What's good Delightfully English, with imperial measurements throughout. Built to last

What's bad Not much, except that I can't afford one

2009 Nikon D700

I liked the spec of the D700 when it came out and I picked up the Nikkor 24-70mm f/2.8 lens with it. I love this camera and I still keep an eye out for one on eBay. I took it to shoot wrestlers in India for three weeks in 2009, and it was a joy to have this kit while travelling.



2012 Canon EOS 5D Mark II

More editors wanted video, so I then jumped ship to Canon and picked up an EOS 5D Mark II. The truth was the video was so fiddly to use that I rarely shot any. I travelled around India and Nepal with this and a Canon 50mm f/1.2 lens. I shot some of my best-known work with Aghori Sadhus, who use human remains in their rituals. It was all taken with the Canon 50mm – a peach of a lens.

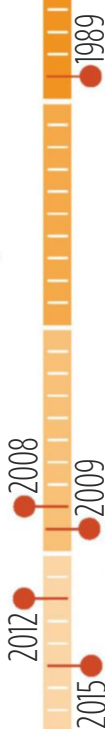


2015 Nikon D610

My EOS 5D Mark II was starting to fail, so I decided to move back to Nikon and invested in the D610. It had a decent price point, but more importantly for me I liked the size and spec, and the video work was great. I've used it for my work with the Royal

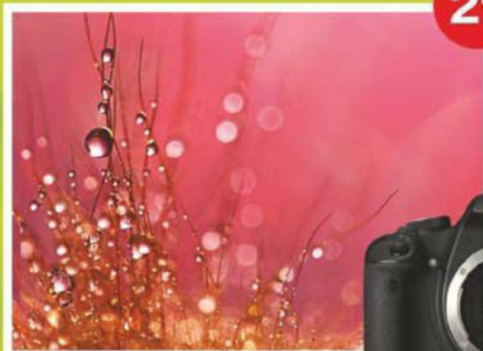


Navy, Eagle Creek and for *Geographical*. Later this year I'll be taking it to India to work on my long-term project 'The Borderlands of Belief'.





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Professor Newman on...

The nitty-gritty of electronic shutters

Bob Newman discusses how electronic shutters work and the operation of the most common shutter types

Modern cameras often have some electronic shutter facility, be it an 'electronic first curtain' to eliminate so-called 'shutter shock', ultra-high shutter speeds or global shutters for video. In this article I will discuss the working of electronic shutters.

To understand an electronic shutter, we first need to look at how a CMOS sensor works. The diagram (below) shows the normal circuit of a CMOS pixel. It has four transistors, three of which effectively operate as switches. I have labelled them reset transistor, transfer transistor, pixel amplifier and enable transistor. The operation of electron capture goes as follows. First, the reset and transfer transistors are turned on. This clears the accumulated charge from the pixel transistor and the photodiode, readying the pixel for a new exposure. Next, both transistors are turned off, allowing photo charge to accumulate on the photodiode, which is now isolated from the pixel amplifier. The pixel amplifier (it multiplies the tiny charge in the pixel so it's large enough to be

read by following circuitry) is now outputting a charge-amplified version of the reset charge. This can be read by the downstream circuitry by turning on the enable transistor to feed its signal to the column output line. This reset signal will later be subtracted from the photosignal to eliminate reset noise. At the end of the exposure, the transfer transistor is switched on again, transferring the accumulated charge to the pixel amplifier, which now outputs a charge-amplified version of the photocharge and is enabled onto the column output line as before. Exposure time, for the pixel, lasts

'Short exposure times are relatively easily achieved'

from when the reset and gate transistors were turned off and charge began to accumulate, to when the gate transistor was turned back on so the accumulated charge could be read.

Now to discuss how different shutter modes operate. In the interest of maximising exposure

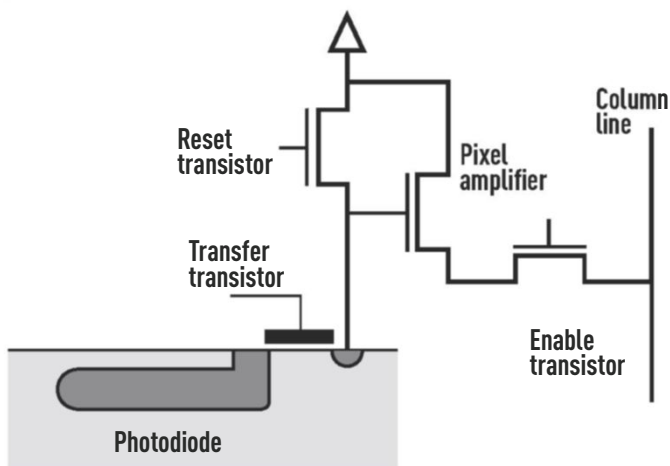


Electronic shutters can give distorted images due to rolling shutter effects

time in video modes, it is desirable that the exposure be ended just before the row of pixels is read. As all the pixels in a column share one output line, they have to be read one after the other. So if the exposure is stopped just in time, we have the effect that the exposure is stopped later further down the sensor. As soon as the row is read, the next exposure can be started so each row receives the same exposure. This leads to a 'rolling' effect that can cause distortions to the shape of moving objects. The way to solve this is to use a 'global' shutter, where the exposure in all rows is started and ended at the same time. The disadvantage is that the maximum exposure is shorter, as there is now a dead time between frames long enough for all the pixel rows to be read out. Ultra-high shutter speeds can be achieved simply by allowing a very short time between the start end of the exposure. As no moving parts are used, there is no inertia, and short exposure times are relatively easily achieved.

Finally, the electronic first curtain is a derivative of the rolling shutter. Here the timing of exposure start, row by row, is controlled to mimic the progress of the first blind of a focal plane shutter. A real blind performs the closing, but as that comes to rest after the exposure is finished, any vibration is invisible.

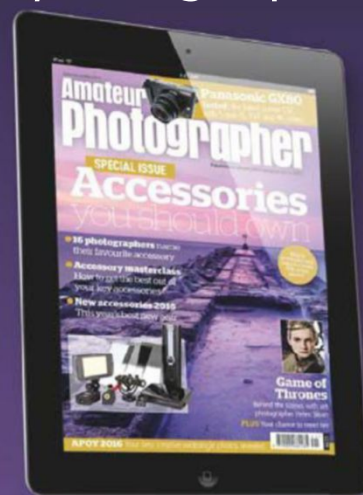
THE NORMAL CIRCUIT OF A CMOS PIXEL



Bob Newman is currently Professor of Computer Science at the University of Wolverhampton. He has been working with the design and development of high-technology equipment for 35 years and two of his products have won innovation awards. Bob is also a camera nut and a keen amateur photographer

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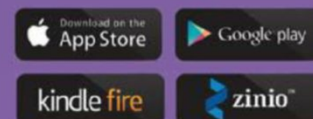


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CONTAX TL1 200 FLASH FOR G1/G2 BLACK	MINT BOXED £79.00
CONTAX D01 DATABOOK FOR CONTAX T3	MINT-BOXED £69.00
CONTAX 45mm f2.8 TESSAR "P" PANCAKE LENS + HOOD	MINT £195.00
CONTAX 300mm f4 TELE TESSAR AE	MINT - £295.00
CONTAX 28 - 70mm f3.5/4.5 VARIO SONNAR T* MM	MINT BOXED £295.00
CONTAX TL1 280 FLASH	MINT - £95.00

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LEICA M7 BODY LATE MODEL	MINT BOXED AS NEW £1,395.00
LEICA M6 TTL BLACK 0.72 WITH STRAP	MINT - £999.00
LEICA M4P BODY BLACK	EXC++BOXED £475.00
LEICA M5 BODY	MINT - £890.00
LEICA M3 BODY	EXC++ £398.00
LEICA M2 BODY WITH CASE	EXC++CASED £595.00
LEICA M2 BODY	EXC++ £398.00
LEICA M1 BODY	EXC++CASED £498.00
LEICA MDA BODY SER NO 12659XC CIRCA 1970	MINT - £425.00
LEICA MDA BODY SER NO 10111XCIRCA 1975-76	EXC++ £398.00
LEICA Ilg body with Leica 5cm f2	MINT-CASED £1,195.00
LEICA & 50MM F2 NICKEL ELM ("FROM A COLLECTION")	EXC++ £365.00
LEICA IIA STANDARD WITH 50M F2 COLL SUMMITAR	EXC++ BOXED £425.00
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LEICA IIIc BODY WITH CASE	EXC++ £195.00
LEICA IIIc RED BLIND RACE	EXC++ £245.00
LEICA CL BODY	EXC++ £298.00
LEICA CL BODY	MINT - £445.00
LEICA C LUX 2 COMPLETE ALSO LEATHER CASE	MINT BOXED £298.00
ZEISS 21mm f4.5 BIOGON ZM	MINT BOXED AS NEW £699.00
LEICA 16,18,21mm f4 ASPH M TRI-ELMAR 6 BIT LATEST/MINT BOXED £2,295.00	
LEICA 21mm f4 SUP ANGLON + M ADAP + FINDER	MINT IN KEPPER £995.00
MINOLTA 28mm f2.8 ROKKOR LENS WITH FILTERS,HOOD	MINT £398.00
LEICA 28mm f2.8 ELMARIT M BODY	MINT BOXED £999.00
LEICA 28mm f2.8 ELMARIT ASPHERIC 6 BIT ("UNUSUED")	MINT BOXED £1,095.00
ZEISS 35mm f2.8 BIOGON BLACK + HOOD M FIT	MINT BOXED £395.00
LEICA 35mm f2.8 SUMMICRON ASPH BLACK 6 BIT LATEST/MINT BOXED £1,495.00	
LEICA 35mm f2.8 SUMMICRON	MINT BOXED £1,095.00
LEICA 35mm f3.5 SUMMARON M WITH LEICA SPECS	MINT - £325.00
LEICA 35mm f3.5 SUMMARON M WITH SPECS	MINT - £395.00
LEICA 50mm f1.4 SUMMILUX M BLACK	EXC++ £595.00
LEICA 50mm f2 SUMMICRON BLACK 11826	MINT BOXED £995.00
LEICA 50mm f2 SUMMICRON 6 BIT LATEST	MINT BOXED £1,095.00
LEICA 50mm f2 SUMMICRON CHROME SER NO 36301#	MINT+HOOD £995.00
LEICA 50mm f2 SUMMICRON CHROME 11816	MINT BOXED AS NEW £799.00
LEICA 50mm f2 SUMMICRON BLACK COMP WITH HOOD	MINT BOXED £775.00
LEICA 50mm f2 SUMMICRON CHROME M FIT	EXC++ BOXED £575.00
LEICA 50mm f2 SUMMICRON CHROME M FIT	MINT £595.00
LEICA 50mm f2 CLOSE FOCUS SUMM - SPECS	EXC++ £595.00
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LEICA 5cm f3.5 COLLAPSABLE ELMAR FOR M 13339#	MINT - £298.00
LEICA 5cm f3.5 ELMAR RED SCALE	MINT - £345.00
LEICA 75mm f2 SUMMICRON APO 6 BIT LATEST	MINT BOXED £1,485.00
LEICA 90mm f2.8 TELE ELMARIT + HOOD + CASE FOR M	MINT BOXED £485.00
LEICA 90mm f2.8 ELMARIT M 11807	MINT BOXED AS NEW £799.00
LEICA 90mm f2.5 SUMMARIT M 6 BIT LATEST + HOOD	MINT CASED £798.00
LEICA 9cm, f4 ELMAR COLL FOR M	MINT - £175.00
LEICA 135mm f4.5 Hektor	EXC+ £75.00
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VOIGTLANDER BESSA 110 BODY	MINT BOXED £115.00
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VOIGTLANDER 15mm FINDER	MINT - £79.00
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LEICA 35mm f2.8 SUMMARON SCREW L39	MINT - £499.00
LEICA 35mm f3.5 SUMMARON SCREW	MINT - £299.00
LEICA 5cm f1.5 SUMMARIT SCREW	MINT - £365.00
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LEICA 5cm f2 SUMMITAR COLL + M MOUNT	EXC++IN KEPPER £275.00
LEICA 135mm f2.8 ELMARIT M WITH SPECS	EXC++ £298.00
LEICA 135mm f4.5 Hektor + HOOD M MOUNT	EXC++ £398.00
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LEICA 135mm f4.5 Hektor + HOOD SCREW	EXC++ £99.00
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LEICAFLEX BODY CHROME	MINT - £195.00
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LEICA 60mm f2.8 MACRO ELMARIT	MINT - £298.00
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HASSELBLAD 50 - 110 f3.5/4.5 HC FOR H SYSTEM	MINT-BOXED £1,195.00

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BRONICA 110mm f4 MACRO LENS MC	MINT - £298.00
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BRONICA 150mm f3.5 ZENANON E MC	MINT £98.00
BRONICA 150mm f4 E	MINT - £98.00
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BRONICA PLAIN PRISM FOR ETRSI/ETRSI	MINT £75.00
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BRONICA 150mm f4 PS ZENANON FOR SQ	MINT-CASED £145.00
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NIKON 60mm F2.8 A/F D	MINT BOXED	£225.00
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NIKON 105mm F2.8 A/F MICRO NIKKOR	MINT	£295.00
NIKON 300mm F4 "D" IF-ED AF-S AS NEW	MINT BOXED AS NEW	£845.00
NIKON 12 - 24mm F4 "F" IF-ED AF-S DX	MINT BOXED	£495.00
NIKON 16 - 80mm F2.8/4 "F" ED DX AF-S VR LATEST	MINT BOXED	£695.00
NIKON 16 - 85mm F3.5/5.6 "F" ED DX AF-S VR	MINT CASED	£298.00
NIKON 17 - 35mm F2.8 F2.8 "F" IF-ED AF-S + HOOD	MINT-CASED	£465.00
NIKON 17 - 55mm F2.8 F2.8 "F" IF-ED AF-S + HOOD	MINT	£125.00
NIKON 18 - 70mm F3.5/5.6 "F" IF-ED AF-S VR Mk2 + HOOD	MINT	£125.00
NIKON 18 - 200mm F3.5/5.6 "F" IF-ED AF-S VR Mk2	MINT BOXED	£475.00
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NIKON 24 - 65mm F3.5/4.5 IF-ED AF-S VR LATEST	MINT BOXED	£295.00
NIKON 24 - 120mm F3.5/5.6 "F" IF-ED AF-S VR	MINT	£175.00
NIKON 28 - 105mm F3.5/5.6 "F" IF-ED AF-S VR LATEST	MINT CASED	£495.00
NIKON 28 - 300mm F3.5/5.6 F6 ED AF-S VR	MINT BOXED	£599.00
NIKON 35 - 105mm F3.5/4.5 AF WITH MACRO	MINT	£129.00
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SIGMA 105mm F2.8 EX HSM	MINT CASED	£175.00
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SIGMA 15 - 30mm F3.5/4.5 EX D AF ASPHERICAL + HOOD	MINT BOXED	£135.00
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24.3 megapixels
6.0 fps
1080p movie mode
Full Frame CMOS Sensor

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D610 Body **£999**
D610 + 24-85mm **£1499**



Nikon D750
24.3 megapixels
6.5 fps
1080p movie mode
Full Frame CMOS Sensor

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Nikon D500
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10.0 fps
1080p movie mode

D500 Body **£1729**

New D500 Body **£1729**
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Nikon D810
36.3 megapixels
5.0 fps
Full Frame CMOS Sensor

D810 From **£2139**

D810 Body **£2139**

Read our D810 review on our blog at wex.co.uk/blog

The new Nikon D5 – A flagship power

Equipped with Nikon's incredible next-generation 153-point AF system, the D5 keeps you on track whether you're shooting the race or the red carpet. Coverage is exceptionally wide, and a new buffer allows up to 200 NEF (RAW) images to be captured during one high-speed burst. New image and metering sensors deliver phenomenally accurate subject recognition and image detail. The highest expanded sensitivity in Nikon's history frees you to shoot from bright sunlight to astronomical twilight. And for moviemakers who go to extremes, D-Movie now enables high-definition 4K/UHD movies to be recorded in-camera.

New D5 Body **£5199**



New D5 Body £5199



SONY A7R II
42.4 megapixels
5.0 fps
4K Video

A7R II **£2599**

A7R II Body **£2599**
A7S II Body **£2499**
A7R Body **£899**
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A6300
24.0 megapixels
11.0 fps
1080p movie mode

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A68
24.0 megapixels
0 fps
1080p movie mode

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Panasonic GH4R
16.05 megapixels
12.0 fps
4K Video

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Panasonic GX8
20.03 megapixels
8.0 fps
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10.0 fps
1080p movie mode

New PEN-F From **£999**

New PEN-F from **£999**
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E-M10 II
16.3 megapixels
8.5 fps

E-M10 II From **£449**

OM-D E-M10 II Body **£449**
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36 megapixels
6.5 fps
4K Video

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K-3 + 18-135mm **£939**
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16.3 megapixels
7.0 fps

X-E2S From **£549**

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X-Pro2
24.3 megapixels
8 fps
1080p movie mode

X-Pro2 From **£1349**

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The new EOS 5DS – A revolution in resolution

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New 5DS Body £2699
New 5DS R Body £2899

50.6 megapixels 5.0 fps 1080p movie mode

New 5DS Body £2699

5DS R Body £2899

Canon | PRO EOS 760D

24.7 megapixels 5.0 fps 1080p movie mode

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750D + 18-135mm £709
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£349 inc. £40 Cashback*
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Canon | PRO 80D

24.2 megapixels 7.0 fps 1080p movie mode

New

NEW 80D From £999
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New 80D + 18-55mm £1089
New 80D + 18-135mm £1349
70D Body £697
70D + 18-55mm f3.5-5.6 IS STM £722

CUSTOMER REVIEW: EOS 70D + 18-135mm IS STM
★★★★★ ‘An excellent step up’
Adam – Portsmouth

Canon | PRO EOS 7D Mk II

20.2 megapixels 10.0 fps 1080p movie mode

7D Mk II Body £1179

7D Mark II Body £1179

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6D Body £1119

6D Body £1119

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5D Mark III Body £2178

5D Mark III Body £2178

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20.2 megapixels 16.0 fps Full Frame CMOS sensor

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1D X Mk II Body £5199

New 1D X Mk II Body £5199

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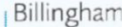
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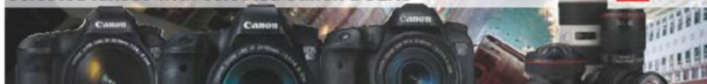
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PIXELS

10 FPS

3.0"

IS

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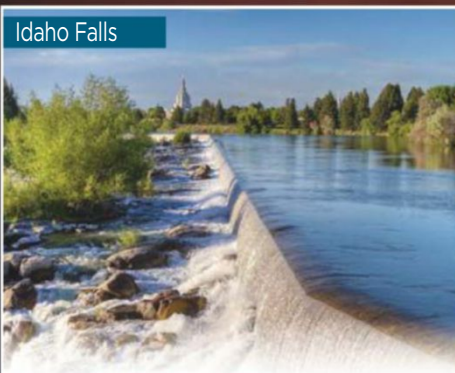
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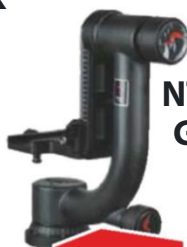
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April 10th, May 8th; Golden Eagle will fly, and perch in carefully chosen natural settings. Jesses hidden for static shots. Controlled flying. Also selection from; Owls, Buzzard, Hawks, Goshawk Max. 8 photographers.

Cheetahs, Lions, Foxes, Birds of Prey, Cambs. £119

April 9th, May 7th; Privileged access to Cheetahs, Bengal Tiger, White Tiger & Corsac Foxes. The Cheetah & Tiger enclosures are not mowed for enhanced photographic opportunities. Private Displays by various Birds of Prey, both static & flying. Jesses hidden for static shots. Barn Owl, Eagle Owl and Red-Tailed Hawk etc.

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April 14th, 15th; Oxfordshire. Take amazing bat photos. Learn how to use balanced fill-in flash on wildlife subjects in different lighting conditions. Max 4 persons. Free loan of Canon digital camera and flash if req'd.

Big Cats at WHF, Smarden in Kent £155

April 2nd, April 23rd, April 30th; Up close to African Lions, Bengal + Siberian + Sumatran Tigers, Serval, Cheetah, Pumas, Jungle Cat, Amur & Snow Leopards, Black Leopards, Clouded Leopards, Fishing Cat. Large open enclosures. UK's most popular photo workshop. Really special photo opportunities from just inches away. Two sets of Lion Cubs born July & August 2013. Huge natural enclosure. Max 12 clients.

Big Cats at WHF, Smarden in Kent - Specialist event 6 photographers - incl. Jaguar £199

March 31st, April 1st, 22nd, 29th; Full day as above, but with additional space at each enclosure. Time is also put aside to review your photos at lunchtime. One to one tuition throughout this very special day. You will see all the animals as above and you will have more personal interaction with the cats. Now including Jaguar.

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Gorillas & African Safari Experience, Port Lympne £155

April 3rd, 24th, May 1st, 2nd; 3 gorilla sessions. No wires, fences or bars throughout the day. Clean backgrounds plus Privileged Access. Photograph at eye level over moat. Huge male silverbacks + family group. Private VIP Safari for 2.5 hours. Rhinos, Wildebeest, Eland, Zebras, Giraffes, Buffalo, Ostriches, various Deer.

Birds of Prey Workshop, Bedford £99

April 16th, 17th; Private flying displays on pre-determined flightpath helps you to focus on birds in flight. Excellent opportunities with carefully chosen backgrounds. Also static shots in outstanding natural locations. Jesses carefully hidden. This location boasts one of the largest collections of Birds of Prey in the UK. White tailed Sea Eagle, Bald Eagles, Hawks, Owls, Falcons, Kestrels, Buzzards and Long Eared Owl (new).

Foxes, Otters, Wildcats, Badgers & more, Surrey. £145

July 13, 14, 15; Inside enclosures 'til sunset. Also Owls, Snakes, Badgers, Polecats, Weasels, Stoats, Hedgehog, Harvest Mice & various Deer. 2 sessions with the foxes, sometimes only inches away from you. Inside enclosures with Foxes, Otters, Scottish Wildcats. Badgers GUARANTEED. No fences or wires to shoot through.

Small Cats Workshop, Welwyn, Herts. £99

April 4, 25, 28; Privileged access to Snow Leopards, Amur Leopards, Pumas, Caracal, Leopard Cat, Lynx, Servals, Golden Cat. As featured on recent series of TV programs on Animal Planet. Small groups. Tuition

Bass Rock Gannets £225

June 5th, 12th, 20th, 23rd; Private boat. Exclusive use of island for just 10 photographers. 50,000 pairs of nesting gannets on one small island. 4.5 hours photography. Amazing close-ups & fantastic flight shots. Large crate of fish fed to gannets as they dive into the sea. An amazing sight that you will never forget.

Gannets diving off Bass Rock £99

June 24th; Fantastic new workshop for 2014. We sail round Bass Rock without landing on the island. A whole hour of throwing fish into the sea for the Gannets to catch. Amazing diving shots. 1,000 + dives. Tuition.

Farne Islands Puffins (Over 5 hrs photography) £89

June 4th, 11th, 17th, 25th; 20 species of birds. 50,000 puffins. Guillemots, Razorbills, Shag, Arctic Tern colony etc. You will get unbelievably close to some of the species. Get that much sought after shot of Puffins with their beaks crammed full of sand eels. Tips and Tuition. Approximately 5 hours photography.

Pro Birds of Prey Shoot, Bamburgh, Northumberland. £139

June 18th, 19th; Amazing photography opportunities. Hill top views overlooking large extensive valleys and seascapes. Rocks and gorse bushes abound. Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Snowy Owl, Eagle Owl and Barn Owl will be placed in really natural situations. Jesses will be hidden where possible for those perfect "in the wild" shots. Can combine with Bass/Farne as this location is very close to the Farne Islands.

Pro Birds of Prey Shoot (2) with Short Eared Owl, Northumberland. £139

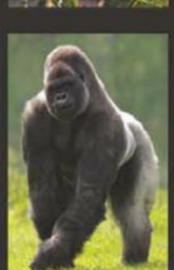
June 14th, 21st, 27th; Both the falconer and the birds are different to workshop above. Venues are about 20 miles apart. We will take two of the birds down to an amazingly beautiful, little known waterfall. This will provide a unique backdrop for your subjects. The falls are surrounded by trees covered with mosses and lichens. We will photograph up to 10 different species of birds, mainly British. Maximum 8 photographers.

Small Mammals, Insects & Reptiles NEW WORKSHOP £199

June 6, 7; Indoor studio set-ups ensuring professional quality photos of stunning subjects. Studio lighting set up for you. Triggers to fit your camera supplied. Cameras and lenses can be loaned without charge. Innovative set-ups to maximise your opportunities. Max 4 persons. Harvest Mice, Red Eyed Tree Frogs, Praying Mantis, Locust, Bearded Dragon, Scorpion, Tarantula, Snakes, Lizards etc.

Birds of Prey on Lindisfarne (Holy Island) incl. Short Eared Owl NEW WORKSHOP £139

JUNE 2, 3; New workshop for 2016. Photograph a Short Eared Owl in its natural habitat before continuing with selection from Eagle Owl, Long Eared Owl, Barn Owl, Buzzard, Kestrel, Little Owl, Tawny Owl using boats, Lindisfarne Castle, boat houses & fishing props as backdrops.



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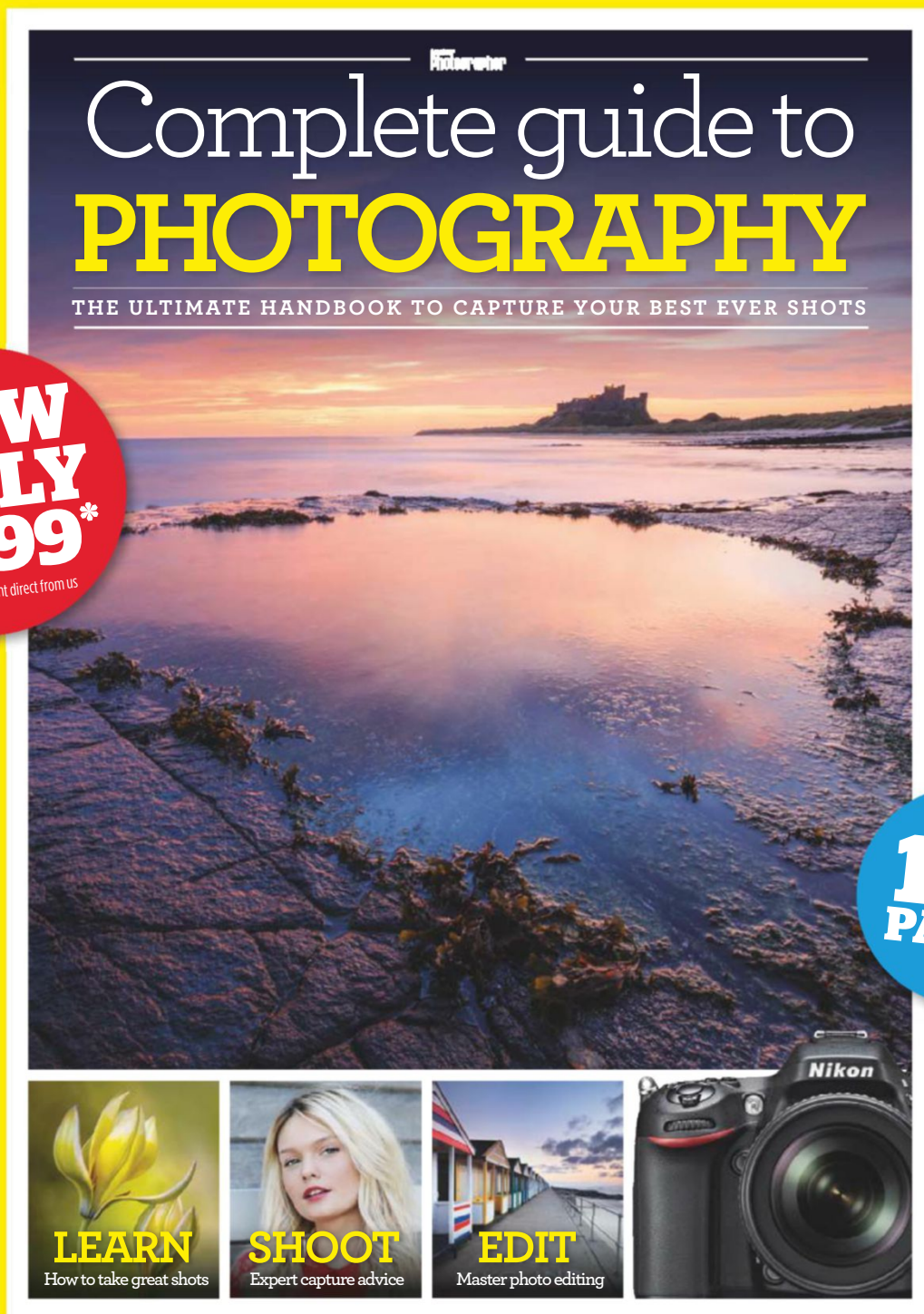
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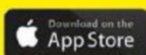


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Details Peter Levinson

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Camera Fairs

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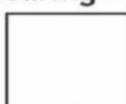
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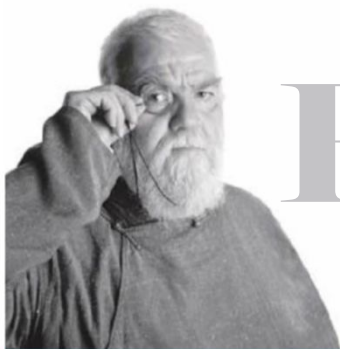


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Final Analysis

Roger Hicks considers...

Isadora Duncan, c1915-1918, by Arnold Genthe

Usually, for this column, I choose pictures that I like, and then try to explain why I like them. However, for a change, here's a picture I don't like, and here's why.

Arnold Genthe (1869-1942) was a remarkable photographer, and Isadora Duncan (1877-1927) was one of the most influential dancers of all time. The picture is striking: the pose, the lighting. So why don't I like it more?

First, a surprising number of Genthe's pictures have a sickly green hue, presumably as a result of iron toning. This is one of the most impressively sickly, with particularly green shadows. Second, the pose is excessively Isadora. She was the first, widely admired advocate of free-form dance.

Saccharine modern Disney

The trouble was that Ms Duncan often exaggerated her own ideas of free form to the point of caricature, and this picture captures the sort of poses reminiscent of typically saccharine modern Disney.

More conventional portraits of Isadora's face reveal it to be somewhat blocky and square-jawed, although she was often photographed from below her eye level in order to emphasise her long graceful neck.

Again, this is taken to the point of parody. The neck is absurdly long, and she looks almost pinheaded. She would have been around 40 years old when this photograph was taken. Either Genthe, or more likely Ms Duncan herself, might have had it in mind to reduce the inevitable appearance of ageing of the neck with this pose and angle.

Furthermore, Genthe does not appear to have used a particularly sharp lens: softness and flare (no coating, remember) would have helped minimise the signs of age.

Soft focus was still in fashion when this photo was taken. Although *Camera Work* had ceased publication in 1917, it had started in 1903 as a standard-bearer for the Photo-Secession movement. Fuzziness and 'control processes' had been extremely popular.

Ansel Adams and his chums would not found the 'straight photography' Group f/64 until about 1932; so fuzziness still had a long run in front of it.

Perhaps the photograph's underlying fault is that it is too much of its time, and an irrelevant sideshow to that time (the middle of the First World War). It also shows that great photographers and subjects are no guarantee of a great picture.



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Roger Hicks has been writing about photography since 1981 and has published more than three dozen books on the subject, many in partnership with his wife Frances Schultz (visit his new website at www.rogerandfrances.eu). Every week in this column Roger deconstructs a classic or contemporary photograph. **Next week he considers an image by Paul Strand**



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